Give me back presidency, Erap appeals to electorate

Story on PAGE A2

Pinoy drummers pound new beat on 'K-hon'

DI LANG PANG-BANDA, PANG-TAGAY PA!

A WOODEN box drum with centuries-old Latin American roots has become the portable instrument of choice for Filipino percussionists.

The odd-looking drum, called the K-hon in the Philippines, has

PINOY/ A18

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WHAT'S INSIDE

- **Budget deficit seen below May target** BUSINESS /B1
- **RP's 38 million voters told to register anew** NEWS /A5
- **Probe of Revilla sought** NEWS /A6

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'Bush wants GMA to run'

So does Sin, claims source close to her

By Carlito Pablo, *in Seoul*
and Christine O. Avendano, *in Manila*

SEOUL (via PLDT)—The way a source close to President Macapagal-Arroyo told it, Manila Archbishop Jaime Cardinal Sin and US President George W. Bush have endorsed the possibility of her candidacy in 2004.

The source, a member of the Philippine delegation that accompanied the President at her just concluded state visit to South Korea and who asked not to be named, disclosed the information to reporters Tuesday evening.

Sin urged Ms Macapagal to run and the latter acknowledged his "prophetic voice," the source said.

Even South Korean President Roh Moo Hyun has joined the chorus urging Ms Macapagal to seek election next year, according to Tourism Secretary Richard Gordon. "Your country needs you, Madame President," he quoted Roh as saying.

The opposition, however, is "speculating" on "possible scenarios" involving either actor Fernando Poe Jr. or deposed President Joseph Estrada to counter a Macapagal candidacy.

"If President Macapagal-Arroyo goes back on her word, a possible scenario is that the united opposition might be tempted to draft FPJ and, if he refuses, Joseph Estrada might be tempted or titillated to run himself," Tarlac Rep. Agapito "Butz" Aquino said yesterday in Manila.

Aquino, secretary general of the opposition Laban ng Demokratikong Pilipino (LDP), also told reporters at a luncheon briefing that "there would be points not in her favor" if Ms Macapagal reversed her decision not to run.

According to the highly placed

BUSH/ A18

IS SHE or isn't she? Those closest to President Macapagal say she's being urged to change her mind by powerful forces the likes of Cardinal Sin and US President George Bush. PCPO MALACAÑANG

GMA tackles Asia's future in Tokyo conference

By Carlito Pablo

TOKYO (via PLDT)—President Macapagal-Arroyo arrived here last night for a three-day working visit following her blitz in neighboring South Korea.

She is expected to elaborate on the theme of the "realignment of nations" and Japan as the "biggest economy in Asia" when she addresses today the Nikkei 9th Conference on The Future of Asia.

The other speakers are Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad and Thai Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra, with whom Ms Macapagal will hold separate bilateral meetings.

The crisis triggered by North Korea's missile and nuclear weapons program will be a major talking point when the President meets with Japanese Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi tomorrow.

"We must engage in this issue actively and consistently to win the future for the Philippines, Asean and East Asia in the context of a safer and more prosperous world," Ms Macapagal told reporters Tuesday night in Seoul.

Japan, the United States and China are principal players in efforts to defuse the tension in the Korean peninsula.

The President said she would also urge Japan to "play a bigger role in the whole security configuration." She said this was needed in view of "the new global perspective that has come about because of the Iraq war."

"There is now a realignment of nations, and there is the basic requirement

GMA TACKLES/ A18

US admiral arrives amid Sulu clashes

By Norman Bordadora,
Julie S. Alipala and
Martin P. Marfil

AMID heavy fighting in Sulu between Marines and Abu Sayyaf bandits, Admiral Thomas Fargo, commander of the US military forces in the Asia Pacific, arrived in Zamboanga City yesterday to observe joint efforts to fight terrorism in the country.

The US Embassy in Manila said the US security assistance program to train Filipino soldiers was the largest program that Fargo's command was undertaking in the region.

A Marine and at least 11 other soldiers were wounded when troops and Abu Sayyaf bandits clashed in Mt. Bagsak in Patikul town. The clash started less than two hours before Fargo arrived in Zamboanga.

US ADMIRAL/ A18

2 ships at fault; San Nicolas more so

By Luige del Puerto

AFTER wrapping up its four-day investigation, the Board of Marine Inquiry is recommending the revocation of the licenses of the captain and chief mate of the MV San Nicolas whose collision with Super Ferry 12 on May 25 in Manila Bay resulted in the deaths of at least 39 people. The fatalities were all passengers of the wooden-hulled San Nicolas.

The revocation of a seaman's book (license) means the end of the career of a seafarer in the maritime industry.

The Board is also recommending the filing of civil and criminal liabilities against San Nicolas captain Celso Ibañez and his chief mate Ernesto Fampula, Capt. Jovito Tamayo, vice chair of the Board, told the INQUIRER last night.

The Board did not spare Super Ferry 12 captain Rene Rafanan. Tamayo said the Board was recommending the suspension of Rafanan's license for three to six months.

The Board, which convened until early in the morning yesterday, found that both Super Ferry 12 and the San Nicolas were at fault. But the San Nicolas had more liability than Super Ferry, Tamayo said.

"The degree of culpability of MV San Nicolas is greater because it did various maneuvers without knowing whether what was ahead of it was a ship or an island," said Tamayo, also director of the Maritime Industry of the Philippines.

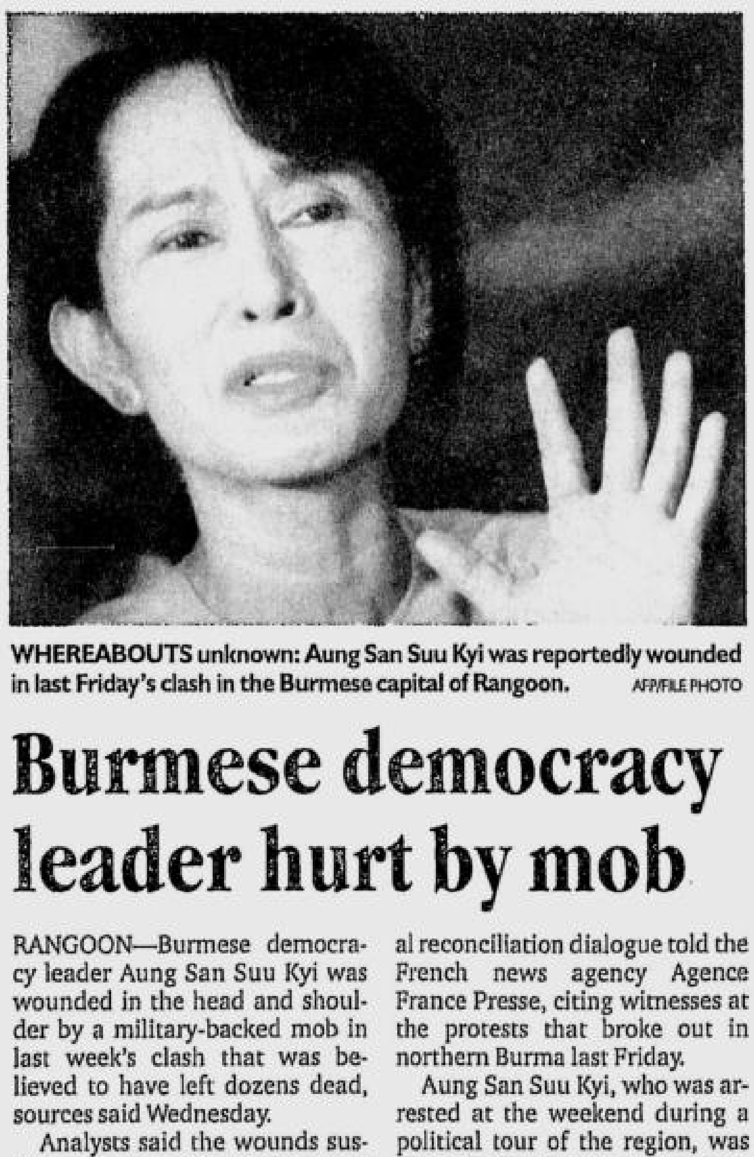
Board members earlier described the smaller ship's maneuvers as "snake-like."

"What is clear is that both ships did too little to avoid the collision," Tamayo said.

The Board found that both captains did not reduce speed when faced with imminent collision, one of the several violations of international maritime rules.

What were the other faults of the captains? Ibañez of the San Nicolas:

2 SHIPS/ A19



WHEREABOUTS unknown: Aung San Suu Kyi was reportedly wounded in last Friday's clash in the Burmese capital of Rangoon. AFP/FILE PHOTO

Burmese democracy leader hurt by mob

RANGOON—Burmese democracy leader Aung San Suu Kyi was wounded in the head and shoulder by a military-backed mob in last week's clash that was believed to have left dozens dead, sources said Wednesday.

Analysts said the wounds sustained by Aung San Suu Kyi had terrified and embarrassed the ruling generals who dread making her a martyr.

"She was hurt by shards of glass on her face and shoulder," a source close to the stalled national reconciliation dialogue told the French news agency Agence France Presse, citing witnesses at the protests that broke out in northern Burma last Friday.

Aung San Suu Kyi, who was arrested at the weekend during a political tour of the region, was being held at a military camp 40 km outside the capital Rangon, he said.

The source said the extent of Aung San Suu Kyi's injuries, which were sustained when protesters

BURMESE/ A4

Adios, telenovela; ni hao, 'Meteor Garden'

By Leah Salterio

FROM "telenovela" to "chinovela."

The hearts of soap opera-crazy Filipino televiewers have gone all-out for the Taiwanese drama series, "Meteor Garden."

And Filipinos have traded their infatuation for Mexican actors and are going ga-ga over the Taiwanese boy band F4, or Flower 4, who are the lead actors in the chinovela now being aired on ABS-CBN.

The chinovela revolves around the concerns of teenagers—their loves and their families.

"Meteor Garden," which is dubbed in Filipino, started airing in the country only last month, but its phenomenal success has prompted ABS-CBN to enter into negotiations with Taiwanese producers to bring F4 to the country for a concert at the Araneta Coliseum in August.

A source at the television network said the talent fee of the group alone would cost them $1 million (P53 million).

One avid follower who never missed a single episode of the chinovela is Charity

ADIOS/ A4

BRISK sales in Quiapo of the posters of the Taiwanese stars of the TV soap, "Meteor Garden," which is a puzzler as their names are tongue twisters to the Filipino tongue. ERIK ARAZAS

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
THURSDAY, JUNE 5, 2003
E-mail: pr_news@inquirer.com.ph

Second FRONTPAGE

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Northwestern Luzon will experience cloudy skies with occasional rains. The rest of Luzon will have partly cloudy to cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms. Visayas and Mindanao will have partly cloudy to cloudy skies.

SOURCE: PAGASA

COMPILED BY: RAY LEYESA, PDI RESEARCH/06/05/03

Metro Manila	Partly Cloudy	Iloilo/Bacolod	Partly Cloudy
Baguio	Cloudy with Rains	Roxas	Partly Cloudy
Tuguegarao	Partly Cloudy	Cebu	Partly Cloudy
Laoag	Cloudy with Rains	Tacloban	Partly Cloudy
Clark Zone	Partly Cloudy	Gen. Santos	Partly Cloudy
Tagaytay	Partly Cloudy	Zamboanga	Partly Cloudy
Legazpi	Partly Cloudy	Cagayan de Oro	Partly Cloudy
Calapan	Partly Cloudy	Davao	Partly Cloudy

'Just one of Erap's games'

MALACAÑANG accused Former President Joseph Estrada's camp of "indulging in games of personal power" by again questioning the legitimacy of the present administration.

Ms Macapagal's spokesperson said the impeachment case filed against the Supreme Court justices was just meant to "destabilize" the government.

Estrada's supporters on Monday sought to impeach the justices for ruling two years ago that Estrada had been ousted from office.

Estrada himself went on radio yesterday lambasting the Supreme Court and appealing his case before the people.

"Let us stop indulging in games of personal power in the guise of defending the Constitution. This issue has already been laid to rest. Resurrecting this old issue only causes confusion, instability and greater suffering among our people," Bunye said. *Dona Pazzibugan*

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Give me presidency back, Erap appeals

JAILED ex-President Joseph Estrada appealed directly to the electorate to reclaim the presidency that he claims was "stolen" from him with the collusion of the judiciary.

Theoretically facing the death penalty if convicted of plunder, the former movie star said in a letter that bore the presidential seal: "I do not expect to get justice from the Supreme Court or from any court in this country."

"It is now up to you, the Filipino people, to be the judge and give me justice. True justice is all in your hands because power resides in you," he said without elaborating.

Earlier this week, he asked Congress to impeach the Supreme Court justices that ratified his ouster and installed the then Vice President Macapagal-Arroyo in his place.

Estrada said the Supreme Court's decision to declare his office vacant, paving the way for Ms Macapagal's assumption of the presidency, was "clearly against the Constitution."

"They did it on the prodding of the rich, vested interests, the controlled media, some generals and the Prince of the Church who loves to meddle in politics," he said.

"When I was forcibly and illegally removed as your President, I was not the only victim. They also stole it from you, the Filipino people who put me in office in a clean election," Estrada's letter said.

House Speaker Jose de Venecia said his office received the impeachment complaint late Tuesday, but he said he was not constitutionally required to act on it earlier than August.

Senate President Franklin Drilon yesterday reiterated the complaint was without legal basis, saying it was only a "political move" by Estrada's political allies to malign the SC justices and destabilize the Macapagal administration.

"Since the complaint cannot be acted upon by Congress due to lack of material time, it is considered alive during the break and gives time for Estrada to again mount a propaganda campaign," he said.

He said it was "but another futile attempt to resurrect an issue that has long been resolved before our courts."

Drilon said President Macapagal-Arroyo has been recognized by both the legislature and the judiciary which, along with the Executive, are the co-equal branches of government.

He said two Congress resolutions should put to rest all doubts on the legitimacy of the Macapagal administration and the propriety of the Supreme Court's act of installing Ms Macapagal.

Drilon referred to a resolution signed by 13 senators who constituted the majority of the Senate at the time of Estrada's ouster and a subsequent resolution recognizing Ms Macapagal's nomination of Sen. Teofisto Guingona Jr. as vice president.

To the opposition senators' criticisms that he had pre-judged the complaint, Drilon said he was merely stating his opinion that the case would not prosper.

Civil society groups that campaigned for Estrada's ouster, said the fallen leader was just after "judicial paralysis" to delay his plunder case until the 2004 elections.

Teddy Casiño, secretary general of the Bagong Alyansang Makabayan, said Estrada was like a basketball player dribbling away the clock.

"He's just holding on to the ball until 2004 on hopes that his Sandiganbayan cases would no longer move," he said.

But the Council of Philippine Affairs' Pastor "Boy" Saycon does not see the impeachment complaint as a "destabilization" plot as he said Estrada and his allies "no longer enjoy that much support." *AFP, Cynthia D. Balana and Volt Contreras*

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SC justices 'cool' to impeachment raps

By Philip C. Tubeza

ACTING Chief Justice Josue Bellosillo described as "cool" the stance of the Supreme Court justices whom jailed ex-president Estrada has asked Congress to impeach for ratifying his ouster and installing President Macapagal-Arroyo in office.

Some of the associate justices named in the impeachment complaint could be seen mixing easily with Estrada's lawyer, former Chief Justice Andres Narvasa, during the opening of an exhibit yesterday to mark the 100th birth anniversary of the late Chief Justice Roberto Concepcion at the new SC building.

"We're not doing anything about it. Let's wait and see. We cannot anticipate what the congressmen and senators will do," said Bellosillo, adding that "we have not done anything wrong."

Narvasa was mum about the impeachment complaint.

"I have nothing to do with it," Narvasa said. "I've seen (Justice Artemio Panganiban's book) but I don't want to make any public comment about it."

Estrada's lawyer, Rene Saguisag, who filed the impeachment complaint in the House of Representatives, based his arguments on Panganiban's book, "Reforming the Judiciary," in which the justice said Chief Justice Hilario Davide had relied on the Bible in deciding the fate of Estrada.

Also present at yesterday's program were former SC justices Abraham F. Sarmiento, president of the Association of Retired Justices of the Supreme Court of the Philippines and Enrique Fernando, who presided over the high court during much of the martial law regime of the late dictator Ferdinand Marcos.

The justices named in the complaint all refused to comment on it, while maintaining that it has not really affected normal activity of the SC.

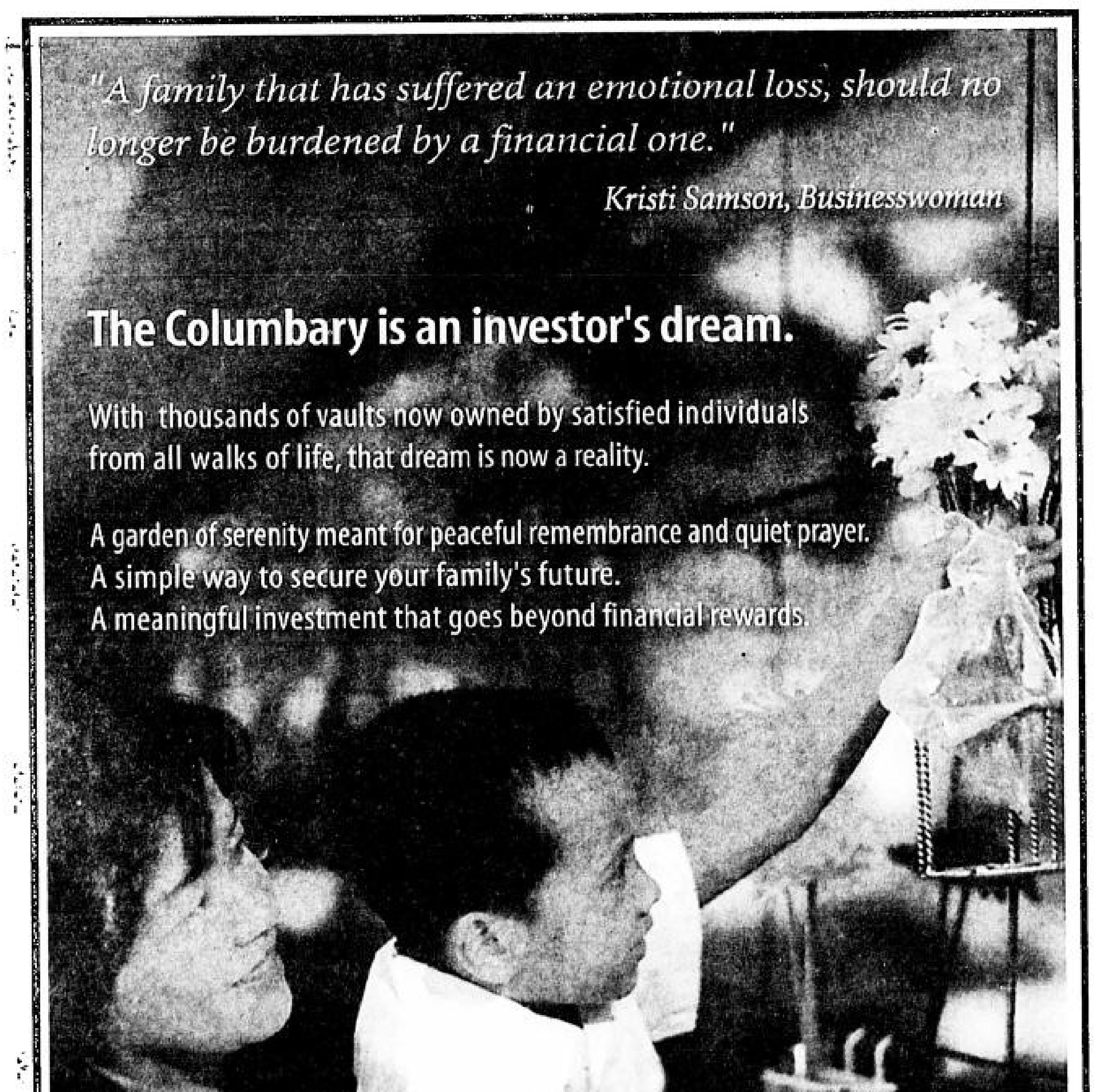
"There's no change. We do our duties as we normally do everyday. We perform our jobs as we normally do. It should not affect (us)," said Justice Romeo Callejo Jr.

"In deference to the House, we would like to withhold any comment," said Justice Adolfo Azcuna.

"It's all up to them (House representatives). There's the separation of powers. That doesn't bother us," said Justice Leonardo Quisumbing.

"No comment. We haven't received anything yet. We don't know what will happen. We haven't received any comment or summons," said Justice Antonio Carpio.

Saguisag asked the House to impeach the eight justices for "culpable violation of the Constitution and betrayal of public trust" for joining the military-backed popular uprising that toppled Estrada in January 2001.



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Senators hit for 'pre-judging' impeach case

By Christine O. Aveñdano

OPPOSITION congressmen yesterday assailed administration senators, especially Senate President Franklin Drilon, for pre-judging the impeachment complaint filed against Supreme Court justices and noted that it could be a ground for their disqualification as members of the Senate impeachment court.

The congressmen were reacting to statements made by Drilon and Senators Ramon Magsaysay and Francis Pangilinan doubting that the impeachment complaint filed by Estrada would prosper at the level of the House of Representatives, and that the Estrada camp was already "stopped" from questioning the authority of the Supreme Court.

Maguindanao Rep. Didagen Dilangalen, one of three congressmen who endorsed the complaint, said that Drilon, Magsaysay and Pangilinan were "guilty of accelerating" the downfall of Estrada in 2001. These senators did not want this issue discussed, he added.

"So what do you expect them to say?" Dilangalen told reporters.

But Cagayan de Oro City Rep. Constantino Jaraula said that the senators' statements were "irresponsible" and could be a ground for their disqualification in the Senate impeachment court in the event the complaint goes there.

Dilangalen also said that several congressmen have already endorsed the complaint, including Leyte Rep. Ted Failon.

But Dilangalen said they don't intend to short cut the process by getting 73 congressmen, or one-third of the 220-member House of Representatives, to endorse the complaint so it can be sent right away to the Senate, which convenes as an impeachment court.

Dilangalen said he wants the House justice committee to tackle the complaint so that it could summon to the public hearings not only the justices but other prominent people like former President Corazon Aquino.

Palace to let Cha-cha run its own course

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo is not objecting to the decision of her Lakas partymates in the House of Representatives to form themselves into a constituent assembly to amend the Constitution.

"This is a party decision. They voted and there is overwhelming support for the constituent assembly mode. The President said she would not object to any (Charter change) moves but her own personal priority is to address the more pressing problems," said spokesperson Ignacio Bunye yesterday.

"We'll just allow the process to continue. They just have to take it up with the Senate," he added.

Ms Macapagal is said to prefer that any amendments be made through a nationally elected constitutional convention.

She had dropped her objections to Charter change, but assured the public that the national elections in May 2004 would be held.

As to Vice President Teofisto Guingona's threat to resign as Lakas president if the Constitution is amended, Bunye said they respect Guingona's "personal position."

"The position of the vice president is a personal position and personally we respect the position expressed by the vice president," he said."

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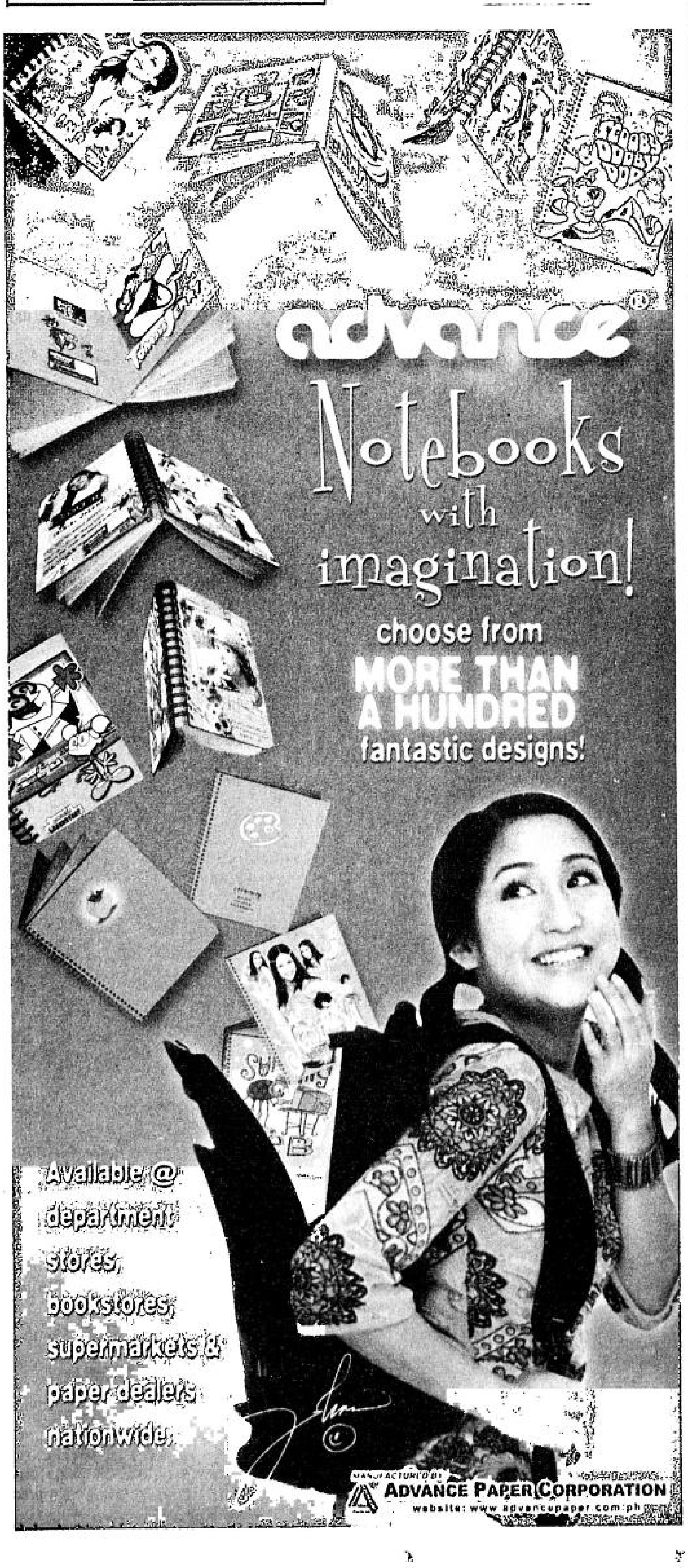
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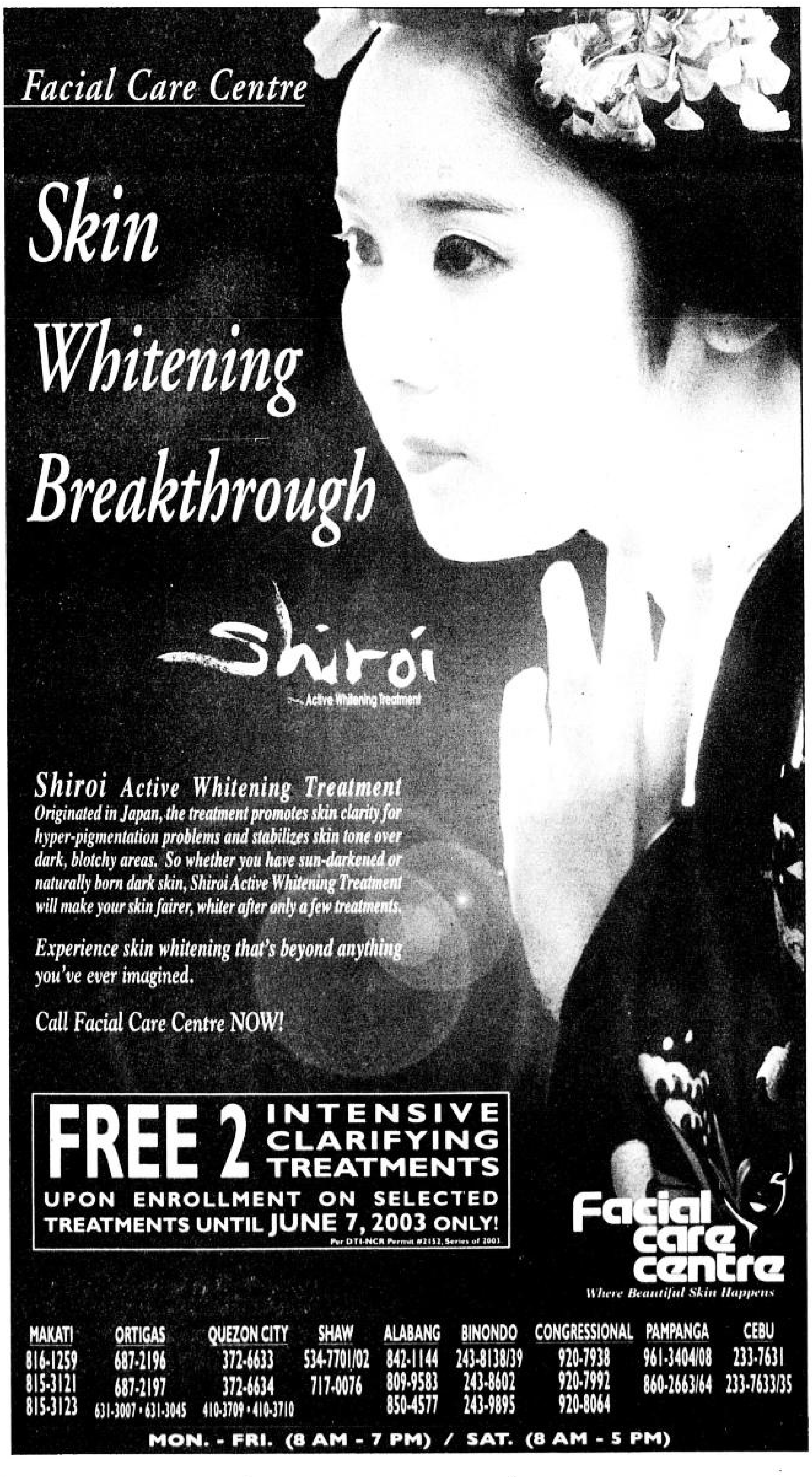
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Burmese democracy leader hurt in clash

From page A1

smashed the windscreen of her car, were not known.

But the same source believed the injuries were not life-threatening as "otherwise she wouldn't be held in the camp."

Burma's military junta denied Aung San Suu Kyi was hurt, saying only four people died in the clashes that pitted pro-democracy supporters against a group aligned with the regime.

Even so, the source said the toll was much higher. "The toll given by the junta is totally below reality and is probably much closer to the 70 to 80 dead figure which has been circulating," he said.

There were also grave fears for the safety of the National League for Democracy (NLD) vice chair who had been traveling in Aung San Suu Kyi's entourage.

"We have very good reasons to be very worried. We have absolutely no news of Tin Oo. We don't know if he's dead or alive," the source said.

Diplomats in Rangoon, who were told in a foreign ministry briefing on Tuesday that Aung San Suu Kyi was unharmed, said the news would spark a second wave of condemnation from their capitals that had already called for her immediate release.

Pathetic

"The first protests will have thought to have been made on false information," one diplomat said. "People will be more and more dismayed—they will be bloody cross actually and the regime will have no credibility whatsoever."

Describing the briefing by Deputy Foreign Minister Khin Maung Win as "pathetic," he said many questions remained about last week's clash, including why the junta withdrew Aung San Suu Kyi's protective escort on the day of the riot.

"There is a feeling here that they have been trying to orchestrate an event to discredit the NLD—they are very frustrated about the popularity she has developed."

Life in Rangoon was normal Wednesday, but it was unclear what kind of reaction could be provoked by confirmation of the widespread rumors that the democracy figurehead had been harmed.

"One suspects that under certain circumstances this country might be a tinder box and you might only have to light a spark, but it's very hard to predict how people will take it," the diplomat said.

In an attempt to prevent the news leaking out, the entire NLD leadership apart from Tin Oo was under house arrest and the other members of Aung San Suu Kyi's entourage are believed to be held at Rangoon's notorious Insein jail.

"This information came from direct eyewitnesses. If people don't want the truth to be known, any eyewitness is in danger," the source said close to the peace process told AFP.

UN envoy to Burma Razali Ismail, who is due to arrive on Friday in Rangoon on a mission to revive the reconciliation process, is attempting to determine the situation in the country and may not go ahead with his trip, he added.

"He will wait until the last minute before he takes his decision," the source said.

Burma last saw mass demonstrations in 1988, when protests demanding an end to the military dictatorship, which had been in place since 1962, swept across the country and left hundreds or thousands dead, according to different estimates.

Two years later, the junta agreed to elections but was shocked by the NLD's landslide victory and refused to hand over power. The resulting impasse lasts to this day.

Junta anxious

Analysts said the junta would be anxious to prevent the world from seeing images of Aung San Suu Kyi, famed for her feisty activism as well as her petite elegance and grace, suffering from obvious physical injuries.

They said such images would mark a huge setback for the energetic public relations efforts launched by the junta in recent years, spearheaded by a private Washington-based company, in a bid to boost its dismal international image.

The already shaky credibility of the junta has been badly damaged with the revelations that it has lied about Aung San Suu Kyi's health as well as about the death toll from the riot.

For the regime, however, the real concern remains its domestic situation rather than any international condemnation, according to Bangkok-based Burma specialist Chayachoke Chulasiriwong.

"They are not people who will yield to outside pressure or efforts easily. They will fight back, especially when (US President George W.) Bush or anyone else complains that they are not doing the right thing," he said. *AFP*

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A FAN frolics on her favorite idols from Taiwan starring in "Meteor Garden," the latest TV craze of teeners and adults alike. ERIK ARAZAS

Adios, telenovela; ni hao, 'Meteor'

From page A1

Cruz, a high school student at the O.B. Montessori in Sta. Ana, Manila. But the 14-year-old is now worried because classes are about to start. She said she might not be able to watch the series, and her idol Dao Ming Si.

Jocelyn Dy, an incoming high school senior at the Philippine Pasay Chung Hua Chinese School, is looking forward to the band's concert in the Philippines. She bought a poster of the quartet at the Pasay market where they were selling briskly.

Fifth grader Alexis Nadine Galimba is also crazy about the series. She keeps a poster of the popular quartet inside her bedroom.

Young and old alike

Surprisingly, the fan base of "Meteor Garden" is not limited to young school girls.

Marie Jennylyn Rose Uyao, a mother of a 5-year-old, makes it a point to be in front of her TV at 5:30 p.m., when the program airs on ABS-CBN.

Housewife Pacita Abad has to fight with her son, who prefers MTV, just so she could watch "Meteor Garden."

Taiwan setting

Based on the popular Japanese *manga* (comic book) "Hana Yori Dango" ("Men Are Better Than Flowers"), "Meteor Garden" is set in an affluent high school in Taiwan.

The series opened with a plain girl, San Cai, (played by 25-year-old Makino Tsukushi) from a middle-class family entering the school of filthy-rich snobs. She stands up to four bullies (F4), and wins the hearts of two.

The members of F4 are Jerry Yen Cheng Xu, 25, who plays Dao Ming Si; Vic Zhou Yu Ming, 20, who plays Hua Ze Lei; Ken Zhu Xiao Tian, 22, who plays Xi Men; and Vanness Wu, 23, who plays Mei Zhuo.

Unknowns to pop icons

The series transformed the four young men from virtual unknowns into pop idols who trigger mass hysteria.

The series debuted in Taiwan in April 2002, and in only a short time, the four men have become household names not only in Taiwan, but also in Singapore, Hong Kong, Malaysia and Brunei.

Their debut album sold over 180,000 copies in Taiwan alone. The album made it to No. 3 in the local charts three days after it hit the shelves. It is bannered by the carrier single, "Meteor Rain."

The chinovela has become so popular in the Philippines that ABS-CBN had to move its timeslot from 4:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.

According to a May 27 survey by AGB Philippines, "Meteor Garden" got a 68-percent audience share among viewers in Metro Manila, Rizal, Laguna, Cavite and Bulacan. The survey was based on overnight ratings.

Overnight ratings are results for a specific day that are compiled over a one-week period before being officially released to the public. Usually, overnight ratings are reflective of the trend for the whole week.

Earlier AGB surveys (May 18-24) showed "Meteor Garden" getting a rating of 29.6 percent. It occupied the No. 5 slot that week.

With a report from Abigail Ho

RP's 38 million voters told to register anew

By Blanche S. Rivera

EACH of the country's 38 million voters will have to go through a registration validation process using new data-capturing machines to be acquired by the Commission on Elections.

Comelec chair Benjamin Abalos Sr. said the new process forms part of the validation phase of the poll modernization program that the poll body is trying to implement in time for the 2004 national elections.

While it was not clear if the validation procedure was compulsory, Abalos warned those who do not get their registration validated would likely experience some inconvenience when they vote next year.

"Everyone will be requested to validate. If they do not, they will be put on the Comelec watch list," Abalos said in an interview.

Registered voters on the watch list will find themselves being "observed and questioned" during the elections and their records "double-checked" before being allowed to vote, Abalos said.

The procedure involves registered voters going to validation centers that the Comelec will set up nationwide where they will have their digital photos, fingerprints and demographic information taken.

AFP, DFA appointees confirmed en masse

By Michael Ubac

THE COMMISSION on Appointments yesterday confirmed en masse the appointment of 38 military officials led by Philippine Navy Flag Officer in Command Ernesto de Leon, six ambassadors, eight chiefs of mission and 22 foreign service officers.

Their confirmation was announced by Senate President Franklin Drilon, who chairs the 25-member powerful body.

Drilon made the announcement after the Commission met in a closed-door meeting at the Senate yesterday afternoon.

De Leon was promoted to the three-star rank of Vice Admiral and 37 other military officers were promoted colonels and Navy captains.

The CA also confirmed the ad-interim appointment of Edgardo Espiritu as ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary to the United Kingdom.

The other ambassadors were:

- Ernesto LLamas, Chief of Mission, Class I, ambassador to Russia with concurrent jurisdiction over the Republics of Armenia, Azerbaijian, Belarus, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyztan, Tajikstan, Turkmenistan, Ukraine and Uzbekistan.
- Antonio Cabangon Chua as ambassador to Laos.
- Ramoncito Marino as ambassador to Lebanon, with concurrent jurisdiction over Syria.
- Laura del Rosario as ambassador to India, with concurrent jurisdiction over Nepal and Bhutan.
- And Aladin Villacorte as ambassador to Korea.

Also confirmed were eight chiefs of mission—Lourdes Morales, Estrella Berenguel, Jaime Yambao, Olivia Palala, Farita Ong, Petronila Garcia, Antonio Modena and Virgilio Reyes Jr.—and 22 foreign service officers.

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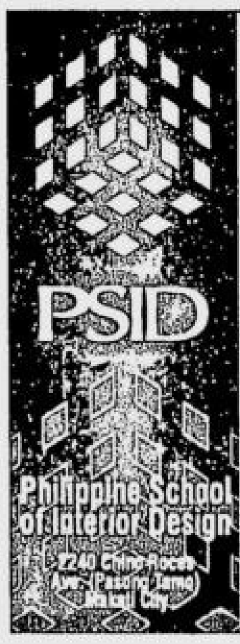

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US says it won't supplant KL as peace broker

KUALA LUMPUR—The United States will not try to supplant Malaysia as lead mediator in the long-running conflict between Manila and separatist Muslim rebels in the southern Philippines, the US ambassador said Wednesday.

But the Philippines is looking for Washington to play a bigger supporting role in brokering a peace deal and will raise the issue with Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad, said Ignacio Bunye, President Macapagal's spokesperson.

Washington has sent hundreds of troops to the southern Philippines to assist government forces battle al-Qaida-linked terrorist groups that may have friends among rebels seeking independence for Muslim areas.

Malaysia has actively mediated talks between the rebel groups and the government of the Philippines, but negotiations foundered in recent weeks as her army launched a new offensive against the Moro Islamic Liberation Front, blaming the group for recent attacks.

US Ambassador to Malaysia Marie T. Huhtala was questioned at a cultural event in Kuala Lumpur about a recent report stating that Washington would like to take the lead in mediating the conflict.

Huhtala said that Malaysia, which has territorial waters bordering the war zone, had played "a very helpful role as a formal broker for a peace agreement in the southern Philippines," the Malaysian news agency Bernama reported. "We are not proposing to do that ourselves."

"We still see Malaysia as taking the lead, but if there are ways we can be helpful in a sort of unofficial way, we will be interested in doing that," Bernama quoted her as saying.

Arroyo is expected to meet Mahathir in Japan in coming days and will propose that the United States play a supportive role in the peace talks, her spokesperson said.

"The president would express the preference that Malaysia would play a key role and to be complemented if possible by the United States," said Bunye. "In other words, Malaysia will remain the principal player as far as the third-party facilitation is concerned." *AP*

Senate asked to probe Revilla on land now

By Gerald G. Lacuarta and Michael Lim Ubac

MILITANT farmers from Cavite yesterday asked the Senate to probe Sen. Ramon Revilla whom they accused of attempting to evict 37 tenant families tilling his 25-hectare land in Silang town.

Farmers belonging to the Kilusang Magbubukid ng Pilipinas and the Samahan ng Magsasaka sa Cabangaan staged a picket at the Department of Agrarian Reform office in Quezon City yesterday.

They asked the DAR to intervene and prevent Revilla from evicting the farmers who claimed to have been tilling the property since 1911.

KMP chair Rafael Mariano said the Senate committees on agrarian reform, ethics, and agriculture and food should immediately initiate an inquiry into the charges against Revilla.

The 37 farmer families in Barangay Cabangaan said Revilla planned to evict them from the land within six months "or anytime he would need the land".

A 1996 tax declaration showed that the lands are registered under the name of Jose Mari Bautista, the real name of Revilla who is a movie actor.

When Revilla bought the huge estate in the early 1970s, seven tenant families were already tilling the land.

Last month, Revilla called a series of meetings with the farmers led by Samaca chair Teodoro Garcia in which the farmers were asked to sign an agreement for them to leave the land within six months without preconditions.

The farmers sought time to study Revilla's demands. They brought the matter to the attention of the DAR when the senator threatened to sue them for illegal squatting.

Regional DAR officials called a dialogue with the Cabangaan farmers and KMP leaders yesterday. The talks were still going on as of press time.

David Erro, executive trustee of the Sentro Para sa Tunay na Repormang Agraryo (Sentra), one of many groups assisting the farmers, said the Revilla property should have been covered by the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program since it was beyond the five-hectare retention limit mandated by law.

Agrarian Reform Secretary Roberto Pagdanganan said he has created a task force to investigate the farmers' complaint against Revilla.

Revilla has already reportedly filed an eviction notice against the farmers before the local courts.

The KMP said the Senate should look deeply into Revilla's possible violation of existing laws, abuse of power and use of political influence.

Mariano said Revilla and his son-in-law, Sen. Robert Jaworski, should be inhibited from participating in the inquiry.

Interviewed at the Senate yesterday, Revilla declared that he "(had) been a good and gracious landlord" and decried the "lies being peddled" by his tenants.

2 MILF rebs slain

COTABATO CITY—At least two Moro Islamic Liberation Front rebels were killed and six others were wounded in an hour-long firefight in Barangay Liliongan in Carmen, North Cotabato yesterday.

The encounter was the second violent incident between the military and the MILF since the rebel group called a unilateral ceasefire on Monday.

In Kidapawan City, officials said MILF rebels planted a bomb outside the Catholic-run radio dxND there.

The commander of the Army's 6th Infantry Division based in Maguindanao, said the clash only proved the MILF's insincerity in its pronouncements.

He said about 50 heavily armed rebels, led by Taha Somalia alias commander King, stormed the outpost of the Army's 40th Infantry Battalion in Liliongan around 9 a.m.

Soldiers manning the outpost managed to repel the rebels. Senga said soldiers managed to recover the bodies of the slain rebels.

Eid Kabalu, MILF spokesperson said no clash took place in Liliongan. *Aquiles Z. Zonio, Edwin O. Fernandez, Jeffrey M. Tupas, Grace Cantal-Albasin and Anthony S. Allada, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

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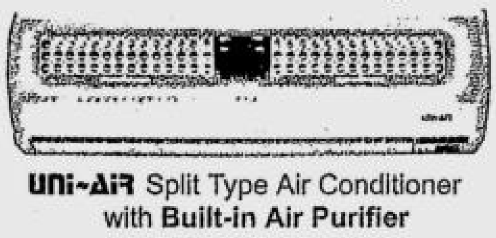

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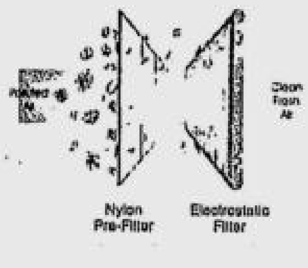
2 As air passes the Electrostatic Filter, materials as small as 0.01 μm such as micro dust, odor, smog, cigarette smoke, bacteria, fungi, and even the deadly viruses are effectively removed.

3 Thus giving you clean, cool, quality air, like no other air conditioners can.



UNi~AiR 友利
For Clean, Cool, Quality Air

Bomb for Piñol detonated

COTABATO—A powerful bomb was found outside a church-run radio station in the southern Philippines on Wednesday, hours before the provincial governor was due to broadcast a program.

The bomb, made of mortar shells and a timer, was detonated before governor Emmanuel Pinol, known for his criticism of Muslim separatist guerrillas, arrived at DXND radio station in Kidapawan City.

Station manager Carlos Bautista said the bomb was found a few hours before Pinol was due to hold his weekly radio show at the station.

The head of the city police, Chief Inspector Alexander Tagum said the bomb was the type commonly used by the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF). *AFP*

50 Ways to Celebrate JUNE

1

5 June

Unang nakilala sa showbiz
ang kanyang dalawang anak,
sina Rachel at Lani Lobangco.
Ang kuwento pala niya ang mas ma-drama.
Tampok si ***Ms. LORNA TOLENTINO***
sa **"Elvie Pineda Story"**.

MAALAALA MO KAYA

Ngayong gabi pagkatapos ng "Sana'y Wala Nang Wakas"

2

6 June

May madugong kahihinatnan
si ***DAO MING SI***.
Ito na kaya ang kanyang katapusan?
Huwag na huwag bibitiw ngayong Biyernes.

METEOR GARDEN

Weekdays before "TV Patrol"

3

7 June

Buong barkada ay makikisaya
sa tagumpay ng ating **"Tanging Ina"**,
Ms. AI-AI DE LAS ALAS.

MASAYANG TANGHALI BAYAN

Monday-Saturday • 12:00 NN

4

7 June

Biyaheng Cebu ang Arriba Family
bago magpasukan.
At si ***CHRISTOPHER DE LEON***
ang nabingwit ni Venus!

ARRIBA! ARRIBA! sa Cebu

Saturday • 7:30 PM

5

8 June

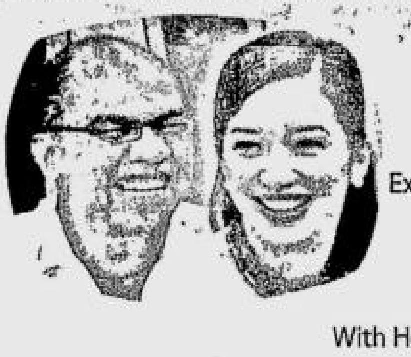
Kanta. Sayaw.
Party.
Kasama ang mga stars ng
primetime teleseryes.

ASAP MANIA

Sunday • 12:00 NN

6

8 June



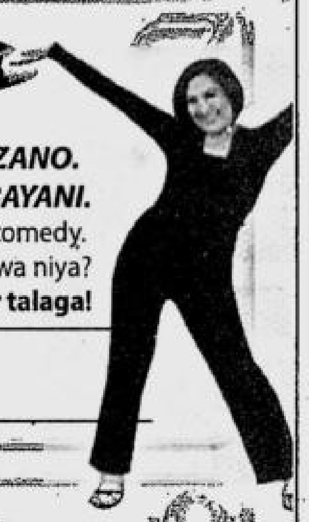
Exclusive interviews with Pinoy celebrities in theUSA--
Ruffa Gutierrez-Bektas in her baby shower,
Anjanette Abayari,
Donita Rose & Eric Villarama and many more.
With Hollywood stars ***Harrison Ford*** and ***Josh Hartnett***.

THE BUZZ

Sunday • 4:00 PM

7

8 June



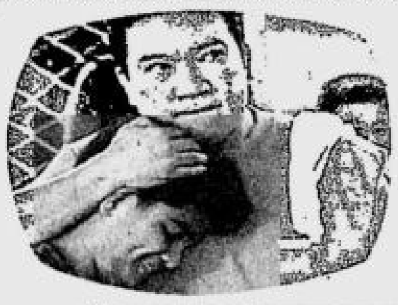
AGA MUHLACH. EDU MANZANO.
BAYANI AGBAYANI.
Sila nga ang namamayagpag sa comedy.
Mapigil kaya ni Mega ang tawa niya?
OK fine mega-ever talaga!

SHARON

Sunday • 5:30 PM

8

8 June



Si ***Kuya Dick*** ang MVP
sa magical kuwentong ito.

WANSAPANATAYM

Sunday • 7:00 PM

9

Starting

9 June

Cebu, game ka na bai?
Celebrity-couples-for-real tag along with
the country's No. 1 game show
in its first ever regional leg.

Million, Million Na! GAME KNB?

Weeknights after "TV Patrol"

10

Starting

9 June

Weeknights after "Game KNB?"

May magbabalik.
May mai-in love.
May matutuklasan.
May maghaharap.

Sunod-sunod na pasabog
sa mga bida ng gabi mo.

KAY TAGAL KANG HININTAY

BASTA'T KASAMA KITA

DARATING ANG UMAGA

SANA'Y WALA NANG WAKAS

Dahil 50 years na ang Philippine television,
araw-araw may sorpresang hatid
ang mga kapamilya mo sa ABS-CBN!

First 10 pa lang ito. 40 more ways to go... so stay tuned!

50 YEARS
ABS-CBN
TELEVISION
SINCE 1953

Eugenia D. Apostol
Founding Chairman

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

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The hooting throng?

EDITORIAL

THE IMPEACHMENT case former Sen. Rene Saguisag filed against eight Supreme Court justices on Monday is exactly like the legal argument raised by new Estrada lawyer Alan Paguia that the case is based on: legal lunacy.

Chesterton, a writer whom Saguisag may have had once felt a close affinity with, defined a lunatic for all time in unforgettable terms: "The madman is not the man who has lost his reason. The madman is the man who has lost everything except his reason."

Listening to Saguisag explain the impeachment complaint and reading Paguia's "Rule of Law or Rule of Force?" paid advertisement (it came out last March), we are struck by an unsettling absence of context: They seem to describe familiar events, but the vacuum created by their kind of logic has made the events barely recognizable. What has been sucked out of their nice little sealed version of the phenomenon of People Power II, however, is nothing less than history itself.

The impeachment complaint, endorsed by Estrada's former executive secretary, Rep. Ronaldo Zamora, and two other Estrada allies, denounced the eight justices (two of whom had not even been appointed to the Court in January 2001) for their role in Edsa II. "The Supreme Court cannot be allowed to play God as the government's most dangerous branch by replacing ex parte a duly elected President as a mere administrative matter."

Ignore, for the moment, the unconscionable begging-the-question fallacy that the claim tries to foist on the House of Representatives. Focus, instead, on the assertion that the Court had replaced the head of state almost as a matter of routine.

There was nothing "mere" or merely administrative in what the Court did (unanimously, we might add) on five crucial occasions: on the morning of Jan. 20, at the oath-taking of President Macapagal-Arroyo on the same day, at the en banc session two days after, and in the events that led to the 13-0 decisions of March 2 and April 3, 2001, which upheld the legitimacy of the new administration.

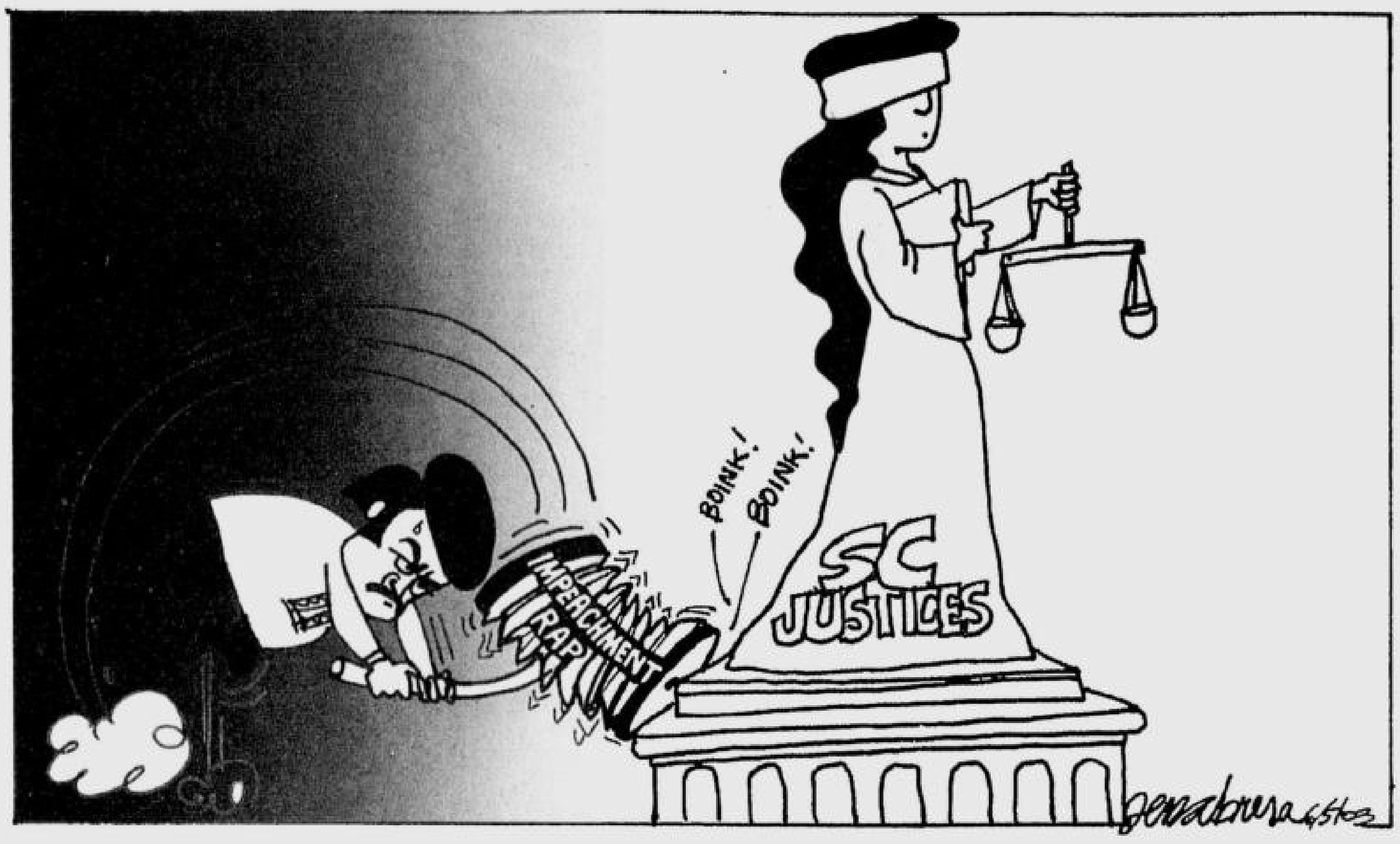
Saguisag and company have pounced on Associate Justice Artemio Panganiban's book (published almost six months ago) to justify their claim that the Court was playing God, but their reading of the book can only be described as ungenerous. The justices acted to "save the Constitution," Panganiban wrote. But Saguisag et al. vacuum out of their version all sense of historical import that was in fact Panganiban's motive for writing, and reduce the matter to mere administrative procedure.

Paguia, who entered his appearance as deposed President Joseph Estrada's new lawyer at the plunder trial last May 19, treats history in a similarly cavalier fashion. In his argument, he lambastes the officials of the Armed Forces and the Philippine National Police as well as the members of Estrada's own Cabinet for turning their backs on Estrada: "They appear to have allowed their independent judgment to be swayed by the hooting throng."

This infelicitous phrase reminds us of Saguisag's original reaction to Edsa II. In January 2001, he called the second flourishing of People Power "the gang rape of democracy." What both comments have in common is disdain for the constitutional principle that sovereignty resides in the people. Paguia characterizes the military's withdrawal of support for Estrada as a decision imposed by the "throng," rather than as an attempt to prevent a rupture that would have led to civil strife; Saguisag, standing on the wrong side of history, mistakes the demos in our democracy for a "gang."

The people, it bears repeating, gathered not outside Malacañang, the center of political power, but at the Edsa Shrine. They constituted nothing more than a moral nexus. And nothing less. That Estrada abandoned Malacañang on Jan. 20—as both the events themselves and key documents proved—showed that even he knew the powers he had been entrusted with had returned to the people.

We will defend Saguisag and Paguia's right to make fools of themselves, but we must also point out that, in indulging themselves, they are not serving our democracy's best interests. "The life of the law has not been logic, but experience," Holmes famously said. By insanely locking out experience—the moment of history—from their version of Edsa II in order to save Estrada, the two lawyers are mocking the very rule of law they profess to serve.



Don't belittle issue on GMA's legitimacy

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz

DON'T belittle the issue of the constitutionality of the removal of President Estrada and the succession of Vice President Macapagal-Arroyo to the presidency. Many people are interested in it, if last Monday's Kapihan sa Manila is any gauge. It was standing room only at the Manila Hotel's Roma Ristoranti, with more listening outside in the adjacent lobby lounge, when two talented lawyers and law professors, Alan F. Paguia and Romulo Makalintal, tangled in a debate over the issue. The audience got lessons in law, for free, which would have cost them plenty in the universities. The session went one hour overtime. After the audience had heard the arguments, we polled them on who they thought was President of the Philippines. The result of the poll is at the end of this column.

Paguia's thesis is that Chief Justice Hilario Davide Jr. may have sworn Ms Macapagal into office and the whole Supreme Court may have decided that she had legally succeeded to the presidency, nevertheless the procedure for succession as provided by the Constitution was not followed. Therefore, the oath-taking and the Supreme Court decision were void from the beginning. Hence, Erap is still the President, according to the 1986 Constitution.

The constitutional provision at the heart of the controversy simply states: "In case of death, permanent disability, removal from office or resignation, the Vice President shall become the President to serve the unexpired term."

Erap is not dead and his impeachment trial at the Senate was aborted, so they're out. In case of disability, the Constitution states that a majority of the Cabinet members must certify in writing to Congress the President's disability. But the letter on Erap's disability did not come from the Cabinet but from Vice President Macapagal herself. Neither Davide nor the rest of the justices inquired if that requirement had been followed before they agreed to go to Edsa and swear in Ms Macapagal as President.

A week later, the Supreme Court, realizing that the "permanent disability" ground was constitutionality untenable, came up with a new decision, this time discarding the "disability" angle and now saying that it was because Erap had resigned. But they could not and still cannot produce any letter of resignation.

So the Court concocted what it called the "totality test" which interrupted Erap's actions immediately before, during and after Edsa Dos, and as related in the diary of Executive Secretary Edgardo Angara, which, it said, all points to the conclusion that Erap had indeed resigned.

For such an important decision, involving the presidency of the nation no less, certainly more than just guesswork is needed to conclude the President had resigned, Paguia said. Something more credible, such as a written resignation, is necessary. There being none, the whole exercise of succession and oath-taking of Ms Macapagal is null and void, Paguia concluded.

Therefore, Erap is still the President. And while he may not now have the "power" of the presidency because of the realities, he still has the "authority" of the presidency because of the Constitution.

More heat was thrown into the fire with the publication of the book "Reforming the Judiciary," by Associate Justice Artemio Panganiban. In the book, Panganiban related heretofore unknown facts behind the consensus of the justices to administer the oath of office to Ms Macapagal.

In the epilogue, Panganiban said he and Davide relied on their interpretation of certain passages in the Bible, and not on the provisions of the Constitution in deciding to swear in Ms Macapagal at Edsa. This is now the basis of the impeachment complaint against Davide, Panganiban and eight other justices.

For his part, Makalintal said that both Houses of Congress recognized Ms Macapagal as President of the Philippines. Not only recognized, but expressed support for her administration and her assumption of office. They also confirmed her appointment of Teofisto Guingona as Vice President. Thereafter, Congress started sending bills to be signed by Macapagal as President.

The whole government bureaucracy, too, as well as the people, recognize Macapagal as the President. The whole international community also recognizes her as such. In fact, she has been and is now visiting other countries as President of the Philippines.

Such recognition is a political issue which cannot be reviewed or reversed by the Supreme Court without transgressing the principle of separation of powers, Makalintal said.

Moreover, the Sandiganbayan, before which Estrada has raised the issues against its jurisdiction over the plunder case against him, cannot review or reverse the decision of the Supreme Court, Makalintal said. The Sandiganbayan cannot substitute its judgment for that of the Supreme Court because the latter's decision is not subject to appeal.

Paguia countered that there is no decision to review or reverse in the first place because the cited decisions are void, non-existent, by the rule of law due to lack of due process. There is no need for anybody to declare them void; they are void per se. You have to go back to the very beginning.

After the discussion, we polled the audience by the raising of hands, on who they think is the real President of the Philippines at present: Estrada or Macapagal. The result: Three to one in favor of Estrada.

Hole in the head

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

ONE of the really impressive things about Berlin, quite apart from its imposing structures, prodigious music and storied past, is its parks. Or more accurately, the places it has reserved for greenery. That is nothing less than one-fourth of the city.

Some parks run as far as the eye can see. They used to be forests or hunting grounds, and some, like Grunewald and Tiergarten, continue to bear the stamp of their origins. The nice thing about them is finding people wrapped in long overcoats (it was September when I went there last year) seated on one of the benches underneath the giant trees, wrapped up in the wonders of a book she or he is reading. I could do that forever.

I remembered that because of what's happening in Katipunan Avenue right now. A group of concerned citizens—residents there, along with NGO people—is up in arms over a street-widening project that entails cutting down the streets lining up the street. The protesters have been playing a cat-and-mouse game with representatives of the MMDA the last couple of weeks. Only their presence has so far prevented the crew the MMDA has brought there from wrecking an island preparatory to hewing down the trees. The protesters are convinced that once they disappear, or relax their guard, the crew would promptly make the argument, along with the trees, academic.

Talking of academic, I know the general area very well because I lived there for four years, from 1968 to 1972, which were my college years. I still remember the tangle of foliage that seemed to surround my school, and the heady smell of grass and leaf particularly in rain. I can't entirely say sweet because the smell of ground expunging the heat of summer isn't always that. But the freshness is undeniable, and fills the senses like wine.

While at this, I remember as well again that you had to walk all the way to what is now the gate to La Vista to catch a bus—JD Transit or DM, for those old enough to remember. You could make it to Quiapo in 20 minutes or less as there wasn't much traffic between Katipunan to Welcome Rotunda. I used to love the part from Edsa to Elliptical Road on the way home at night on gray days such as these, the wind howling through the slit in my window as the bus plummeted along. It was dark everywhere, that area being pretty much an open expanse of land with tall trees and huge branches arching across the sky. The smell of midnight fertilizer mingled with the smell of dew and rain and gave new meanings to the magic of life and nature. I remember that some of the best perfumes in the world achieve their essences by mixing the foul with the sweet, but that's another story.

That is the reason I sympathize completely with those who are often derisively called "tree-huggers," many of whom now congregate on the road of my remembrances. They have every reason to hug the trees that line up Katipunan. Not every change or attempt at modernization creates progress. Some merely cause retrogression.

I agree entirely: We cannot live in the past. But I will insist as well that we cannot live in the present—or not in it alone. We have to think of the future as well, which is going to be the present of our children and their children.

That is why I remembered Berlin. No one can argue that that city isn't progressive. Yet it is one that reserves a fourth of its geographical space to greenery and will not abide the thought of diminishing it in favor of commerce or transportation. The mark of progress isn't cars speeding by down wide avenues. It is people pushing trams through rolling greens or reading a book on a bench in sunlight or in rain underneath the trees. The mark of progress isn't people being able to ride fancy cars down avenues that have sprouted McDonald's and KFCs to take the place of trees, it is people being able to breathe.

I know we are not Berlin and can never expect to be so. I know the differences are patent, not least in the fact that where one-fourth of Berlin is green, one fourth of Metro Manila is slum. I suspect three-fourths of the latter's residents are urban poor, or getting there. I know that we are dealing with a population of nearly 10 million as against one of only three million. But that is no excuse for condemning the future generation to a desert just so we can indulge ourselves today.

The project is an indulgence. Our problem with traffic is not that our roads are too narrow, it is that our cars are too plentiful. And getting more plentiful by the day. You can never have roads wide enough to accommodate that flood. The disappearance of the trees in Katipunan will count for nothing in a year or so, though it may count for a few more votes for the authors of this wretched idea next year from owners of flashy cars. Our problem is not that we find trees blocking our narrow paths, it is that we find narrow-mindedness blocking our treeless path. That narrow-mindedness comes from copying the American system blindly, of making car ownership (along with gun ownership) a God-given right to the pursuit of happiness. The former British colonies, which have built railways and created efficient mass transport systems, have no such problem.

Even the most desperate of megalopolises must cling to some kind of planning. Even the most beggared of megalopolises may choose to leave something for its current occupants' offspring. As it is, we barely have enough green left in this miserable place, other than the jokes that teem in our cellular phones. Cutting down the trees on Katipunan to widen it is something we need like a hole in the head.

But then some people in this country have been known to crave that other one, too.

* * *

Comments to dequiros@info.com.ph

Why now?

POLITICAL TIDBITS

Belinda Olivares-Cunanan

THE TIMING of former President Estrada's impeachment complaint against eight of the 15 Supreme Court justices who participated in the deliberations declaring the legitimacy of President Macapagal-Arroyo's assumption of office in 2001 is suspect. Why the Estrada camp has chosen to bring the plunder case out of the legal arena into the political is clear: it's running out of good defense in the case.

Senate President Franklin Drilon opined that the goal of the impeachment move is to destabilize the government anew. But this case won't prosper, not only because of lack of time (with Congress adjourning today, this issue can only be taken up at the earliest in late September or October and the justice committee which will have jurisdiction over it has 20 session days to deliberate on it). I believe there are enough patriotic House members who will see it as a mere destabilization ploy. It's election year and the House members wouldn't want to be tied down in impeachment deliberations that would be unpopular for being destabilizing; they would rather be campaigning.

* * *

The question in many minds is, why are the high magistrates being threatened with impeachment only now, two and a half years after GMA assumed office? Pundits suspect the answer lies in the Sandiganbayan trial. The prosecution has finished presenting its evidence against Estrada, and it's now the turn of his lawyers to present theirs. But the defense seems to be having a tough time producing sound evidence of his innocence. Thus, the next option is *guluhin ang eksena* by raking up again the legitimacy issue, this time by seeking to impeach the justices who recognized her legitimacy.

* * *

This is ironic indeed for on three separate occasions, Estrada's lawyers abided by the SC's judgment: on Jan. 24, 2001 when all the 15 justices affirmed Chief Justice Hilario Davide's authority to swear in the new President; on March 3, 2001, when the SC, by a 13-0 vote (sans Davide and Justice Artemio Panganiban who recused themselves) affirmed GMA's legitimacy as President, and on April 5, 2001, when the SC again by a 13-0 vote denied Estrada's motion for reconsideration. Among the 13 justices who affirmed GMA's legitimacy were two lady justices appointed by Estrada: Consuelo Ynares-Santiago and Angelina Sandoval-Gutierrez. These lady jurists, however, went one step further: they wrote concurring opinions, with Gutierrez calling GMA the "de jure President."

* * *

Note that in the March 3 and April 5 decisions, Rene Saguisag was the chief lawyer of Estrada, and he even made the oral arguments before the SC on Feb. 15, 2001. Now he's seeking the magistrates' impeachment, because he only recently read Justice Panganiban's story about the Chief Justice's divine inspiration on Jan. 22, 2001. But that story was in my column on Jan. 25, 2001 and in the INQUIRER, which even named the SC justices the winners of the "Filipino of the Year" in December 2001. Where was Saguisag all this time?

* * *

This is not the first time Estrada has tried to scuttle the Sandiganbayan proceedings. Recall that he pulled out his defense lawyers last year, after the court refused to drop the case against Jinggoy, forcing it to appoint lawyers to defend him (afterwards he called back his own lawyers). Now his camp needs big headlines to steal public attention away from the weakness of his defense, and to derail the trial, while his lawyers seek their own divine inspiration. What could be better than to create a crisis in the judiciary?

* * *

Estrada, through Saguisag, has charged before the House the eight justices for alleged "violation of the Constitution, the Code of Conduct and Ethical standards for Public Officials, their oaths of office and the Code of Judicial Conduct." The allegation is that they did all this on Jan. 22, 2001, when the Chief Justice administered the oath to Vice President Macapagal even when the presidency was not vacant, and the other justices witnessed the "very partisan" event.

* * *

Twelve justices went to Edsa for GMA's oath-taking and yet, Estrada has charged only six of them before the House (the two others charged, Justices Antonio Carpio and Rene Corona, were not yet members of the Court then). The six other justices who were at Edsa have since retired, so their escape from the complaint is understandable. Interestingly, however, Erap also spared the three other justices who were vacationing in Boracay at that time—Santiago Kapunan, Ynares-Santiago and Sandoval-Gutierrez—who voted last Jan. 24, 2001 with their 12 colleagues to affirm Davide's authority to swear in GMA, and on the March 3 decision affirming GMA's legitimacy. Doubtless they were not implicated because they were Erap appointees (Kapunan has since retired). The complaint is unabashedly partisan and selective.

* * *

Much is being made by the opposition of the fact that, as Justice Panganiban related in his book, "Reforming the Judiciary," Chief Justice Davide was moved by biblical inspiration to prevent the disaster falling on Zion to befall this country so he administered the oath to Ms Macapagal. But the opposition also conveniently fails to mention that the Chief Justice's biblical inspiration was backed by decisive legal moves of the Court on Jan. 24, March 3 and April 5, 2001, with all the justices from the Ramos and Estrada era unanimously supporting him. In fact, the issue of GMA's legitimacy was spiritedly debated, with one school led by Justice Reynato Puno, the March 3 ponente, 'arguing the "totality of circumstances" test; another group, led by Justice Josue Bellosillo, invoking the "disability" test; Justice Jose Vitug invoking the "abandonment" argument; and Erap appointees Jose Pardo, Santiago, Kapunan and Gutierrez the "reality" test—i.e., *nariyan na, presidente na si Gloria.*

Is it worth it?

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

SAN FRANCISCO—Adding to the stresses that two-income families face in the United States is the emerging realization that often the "second," smaller income "hardly makes any difference at all," as Dan Akst, writing for MSN Money, a website devoted to financial advice, puts it.

The title of his piece says it all: "Second Incomes: Twice the work, half the return."

"Some of the positives can't be measured financially, of course," says Akst. "Employment gives a person a sense of self-fulfillment that he or she is contributing to a family's well-being. The fact remains that the person who most often must choose between working at home or an outside job is the woman in the house. By choosing not to work, a woman oftentimes gets labeled as being on the 'mommy track.' She gets pigeonholed by employers, loses out on career advancement and once she returns to the workforce, often doesn't get promoted as quickly. It's a tough tradeoff."

But when she does decide to return or stay in the workforce, a "working mother" in the United States, says Akst, may find that her job is costing her more than what she takes home. The main culprits, Akst says, are a tax system that "savagely penalizes" second incomes, and the high cost of quality child care.

Of course, for many couples a second income makes the difference between penury and a decent life, and even improves the family's standard of living. But, says Akst, "for affluent couples whose partners have seriously unequal earning power, the cost of the second income often means the lower-paid partner is working for free."

* * *

THE PROBLEM, say financial consultants interviewed by Akst, is that even as the second income hardly contributes to the total family earnings, it also pushes the couple into a higher income bracket that translates into higher taxes and social security cuts.

Other major costs: child care, which could "easily wipe out whatever's left of a second income after taxes"; commuting, which means not just fares and gas, but also the time lost to traffic; lunches and other meals at work, including dinners out and takeout meals; and appearances, including business attire, dry cleaning and even having the right kind of car.

Busy working couples also tend "to buy unnecessary things for their kids because they get so little time with them. Also, busy couples often don't have time to comparison shop. They frequently buy expensive takeout food or groceries from a high-priced convenience store instead of a cheaper supermarket. All these costly habits can be considered job-related expenses."

While acknowledging the psychic rewards that come with holding down a job, the experts interviewed by Akst remind couples to sit down and study the rewards/costs of a second job and then decide if the benefits outweigh the costs.

The bright side of this dilemma, says Akst, is that "discovering that a second income really doesn't contribute much financially can free a spouse to learn new skills, go back to school, pursue an unprofitable dream career or launch a home-based business that may pay little during the first few years. If you're going to work for free, after all, you might as well enjoy it."

* * *

BUT if a woman decides to stay at home, and there are sound reasons to do so, Liz Pulliam Weston, whom I quoted in yesterday's column, says she should do all she can to make sure her finances remain sound.

First, Pulliam Weston advises, "disaster-proof your finances." This includes paying off debt, contributing as much as possible to retirement funds and keeping a "hefty emergency fund." "Single-income families typically should have at least six months' living expenses in a safe, liquid account."

Second, get insured. Though disability insurance might not be possible for a stay-at-home spouse, she should be able to get life insurance. And, says Pulliam Weston, "if you have children, you almost certainly need some… the younger your children are, the more insurance you need."

Third, "make sure you have retirement savings in your own name," which the working spouse can contribute to.

And lastly, says Pulliam Weston, "consider working at least part time once your children reach school age."

While acknowledging the costs entailed by a second income, Pulliam Weston says the losses could be offset by other benefits, such as "keeping your job skills current and being able to contribute to a retirement fund or earn pension credits."

* * *

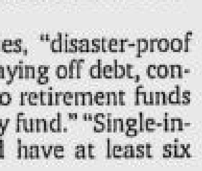
LISTENING to my friend's child-care stories, and reading the MSN Money articles, I realized that were it not for the affordable and still readily available childcare options enjoyed by middle-class "working moms" in the Philippines, we would also be gnashing our teeth and racing through the home commute every day like our American counterparts.

In fact, I suspect my friend Maloy's daily dilemmas are shared by many other Pinoy mothers who work outside the home. Though pervasive among the middle- and upper-classes, *yayas* and domestic help are still beyond the reach of the working poor, who must, along with the burdens of work and family, cope with dwindling returns on income as well.

What I also found remarkable in both MSN Money articles was that, while both were full of financial advice for the woman caught between the demands of family and work, they were quite matter-of-fact about the unjust taxation system and the skewed priorities of the economic system that put her there in the first place. Perhaps the most helpful advice of all is that if we want women's work valued rightly and justly, we should all work toward changing the unfair and unjust system and not merely accept it.

Oposa's blue-green opus

HUMAN FACE



Ma. Ceres P. Doyo

TODAY is World Environment Day. Greetings to passionate lovers of this blue-green planet.

It's not easy being green, Kermit the frog always says, but environmental lawyer Antonio Oposa would tell you it could be easy, even fun and fulfilling, if you follow the laws of nature.

Like spending part of his inheritance to fund his amazing book project on the environment that is mind-blowing and encyclopedic in its scope, and more importantly, in its liveliness and reader-friendliness. If this isn't spirit-inspired, I don't know what is. This is Oposa's gift to the world, to his children and the generations to come.

Comes now (pardon the legalese) this great twin opus of his that is anything but purely legalistic. It is a work of love. If most lawyers had the passion of Oposa, the earth would be less stuffy. It would feel fresher, smell cleaner, look bluer, greener.

"The Laws of Nature and Other Stories" (504 pp.) and "A Legal Arsenal for the Philippine Environment" (795 pp.) are heavyweights—literally, that is (the two 11" x 8.5" tomes weigh 4 kilos). I would not want to call them heavyweights in content, lest readers think they're boring. I would rather say that Tony Oposa's opus is full of heart and, yes, undying hope. These are not just books of words, but of wisdom too, graced by exquisite photos.

The two books go together but, says Oposa, if you could read only one, read "The Laws of Nature and Other Stories." Oposa told me that if I have to read only one chapter there (presuming that I already have a good grasp of the workings of nature), I should read Chapter 9.

This is not a law book, Oposa says of "The Laws of Nature and Other Stories." "Nor is it the work of a legal scholar…(it is) the work of a story teller and a legal brawler. Legal scholars and environmental scientists will forgive the effort to simplify complex theories and concepts." If a story must be told, Oposa adds, it must be understood by as many people as possible.

Chapters 1 to 6 are about the story of the earth, sea and sky and how humans have related to Planet Earth through the ages, and how Earth has suffered. Chapter 7 is on human habitation. Chapter 8 presents stories on good environmental governance. Chapter 9 confronts the issues of materialism and wretched consumption. This is the nightmare that Oposa wants us to read meditatively. Chapter 10, on international environmental law, gives directions on management of this planet.

Oposa dares to hope that human beings, with their God-given wisdom and will, may see the folly of their ways—soon. There is a lot of humor in the book, which hints at Oposa's own sense of humor. You could tell he is a just and happy man.

One great thing about "The Laws of Nature and Other Stories" is its being told from a Philippine vantage point even while it stays global. Awash in colored photos, it shows some of Philippine nature's best. The text is lavishly garnished by blurbs and the wisdom of the sages.

Oposa will tell you that not everything there is his. He borrowed from many sources. But it is the way Oposa presents the stories that makes this book different. Take my word for it. A high school kid and a dean of the graduate school would both appreciate it.

The other book, "A Legal Arsenal for the Philippine Environment," is literally a gift for lovers of the law. This is the fruit of more than 17 years of research. Oposa gave the Supreme Court the right to publish it and distribute free copies to judges. Said Chief Justice Hilario Davide: "By doing so, perhaps (Oposa) seeks to emulate the generosity of nature."

This one is a treasure trove of Philippine laws and decrees that cover the Philippine earth, sea and sky and all the living things. This is perhaps the only book on laws with colored photos.

While propping up the heavy tome on my lap, I could not help thinking, with an arsenal as heavy as this, how could our environment go wrong? But that is the problem: we are not wanting in laws, we are weak in will to implement the laws.

There is a law and presidential decree for just about everything-from legal easements to build-operate-transfer; from garbage disposal to protection of cultural treasures; from forests to farms. The book covers a broad sweep.

This legal arsenal has nine chapters—Tour of the Legal Horizon, Land, Air, Water, Human Habitat, Local Governance, The Economics of Ecology, International Commitments and Miscellaneous Laws.

Government and non-government organizations as well as lawyers and business groups should have this.

As one of Asia's leading voices in Environmental Law, Oposa has fought in the highest courts of law for the right of children and future generations to sue their government in order to protect the country's tropical rain forests. This international landmark case is known as the "principle of inter-generational responsibility," the responsibility of the present generation to care for the natural resources for the benefit of the future generations. Oposa serves as environmental law counselor to local, national and international organizations. He teaches environmental law at the University of the Philippines and the Philippine Judicial Academy. He is a founder of the Batas Kalikasan Foundation.

Surprise. Because Oposa believes that knowledge is the only commodity that increases when shared, his books could be reprinted/reproduced, pro bono publico by Filipinos. Send e-mail to aoposalaw@oposa.com or access the website: www.oposa.com/book. The books will be in bookstores soon.

* * *

Send comments to cerespd@info.com.ph

For Mel

YOUNG BLOOD

Mayleen Hernandez

We want to know what the young are thinking about. What are their thoughts on current issues? We welcome contributions from the twentysomething and below.—Ed.

IT is my graduation day. In my black graduation gown, here I am in front of Mel's grave. This is a very special day…for both of us.

"Hi, Sis. I came here to tell you I've done it," I begin to speak. "I never gave up your dreams for me."

Mel would have been the happiest person to see me wearing a toga. It's a pity she couldn't be with me and see me accepting my diploma. She's the reason why it became possible for me to finish my college education. If not for her, I wouldn't even have reached high school.

I'm the daughter of a poor domestic helper. I was just lucky my mother was working for their family.

Mel befriended me and in a very short time we became good friends. When she learned that I wouldn't be going to school because we had no money to pay for my tuition, she volunteered to sponsor me. I didn't know she smashed her coin bank to have the money she gave me. And she even asked us to move to the little house at the back of their mansion because she wanted to grow up with me.

When we were having our Junior-Senior Prom, she was more excited than I was. She bought me my evening gown. She said she was doing it for herself: she wouldn't be able to experience it because she was studying in an exclusive school for girls.

But life is not always a bed of roses—and even roses have thorns. Mel's parents died in a car accident. And that was the end of her happy days. She loved her parents so much that she almost lost her mind after she lost them.

I was there for her and I tried to convince her that it wasn't the end of the world. "If you love them, set them free," I advised her. "If you cry a lot, your parents will never be at peace. They will be worrying about you so much. Just think that they have gone home, gone to their real home to be with our Heavenly Father."

"I know you love them so much," I continued. "See your parrot that you've been taking care of for the last three years? You give him food, drink and a very beautiful cage. But do you think he is happy? He is not, and do you know why? Because he can't soar up to the sky and spread his wings to fly. He needs his freedom back."

She cried as she listened to me. I myself couldn't believe that I was talking to her like that. I sounded so mature. But although she was crying, she was able to understand what I meant. And I was so happy for her.

Days passed, and things seemed to be going fine around the house. I thought the biggest storm in our life had passed. Then I noticed that she was rapidly losing weight, but we never really worried about it.

She never told me what she felt. I never knew there was something wrong with her.

Then one day, she fainted. And that's when I knew something was wrong with her. I talked to her doctor and I cried when I learned the truth. She was sick. She had cancer of the blood or leukemia.

I didn't want to lose her. She was the best friend I've ever had.

Curiously when she was in the hospital and dying, she repeated the words I told her during her parents' funeral. She told me she was going to be happy, because there she'll be with her parents.

After the burial, I packed my things up. I had no place in their house anymore. I was just the daughter of their servant.

But I was surprised when their lawyer called me up for the reading of the last will and testament of Mel, who had inherited all of her parents' riches.

My tears kept falling while the attorney read her will. Until her dying breath she was still thinking of my own good. Mel had bought an educational plan for me, for my college education.

I owe her everything. And now I'm in front of her grave, wearing my black graduation gown.

"Here I am, Mel," I speak to her again. "I wouldn't be here if not for you. I didn't disappoint you, did I? Hours from now I will be reciting my speech and that is for you Mel. Just for you…"

Mayleen Hernandez, 20, finished her BS Accountancy at the Occidental Mindoro National College.

WHATEVER HAPPENED TO . . .?

Music piracy

TWENTY-TWO cases of violation of the Intellectual Property Rights Law were filed on Feb. 16, 2001 against spouses George and Jasmin Ang, Ricky Ala, Lee Chung Sang, Lam Kwok Chan, Cathy Ang and Choy Ma Tak before the sala of Judge Edwin Sorongon of the Mandaluyong City Regional Trial Court Branch 214.

The complaint for music piracy was filed by Danilo Olivares, president of the Philippine Association of the Record Industry (Pari), with the Department of Justice in 2000. The DOJ formed a surveillance team from the National Bureau of Investigation. Witness Dino Cirujano, gardener/janitor of the Angs, said he saw a replicating machine for compact discs and materials used to label CDs in the couple's house in Cubao, Quezon City. He was also ordered to deliver counterfeit CDs to a factory warehouse in Mandaluyong City. On June 9, 2000, armed with two search warrants, the NBI agents raided the couple's house in Quezon City and their warehouse in Mandaluyong City. Thousands of CDs, VCDs and pirated labels and covers were confiscated.

On Sept. 12, 2001, the cases were re-raffled following the creation of five new RTC branches in Mandaluyong. They were assigned to Judge Rizalina Capco-Umali of Branch 212. Since authorities had failed to apprehend the suspects, Umali issued new warrants for their arrest.

Lee and Lam were allowed to post bail in October and November 2001, respectively. But Lee jumped bail and no longer appeared during court hearings.

On Oct. 15, 2001, acting on a petition filed by the Angs, the DOJ issued another resolution stating that "there is nothing in the records of the case that would show the involvement of (the Angs) except the lone affidavit of Dino Cirujano which needs careful scrutiny." This prompted the couple to ask the court to dismiss the case against them. But their motion was denied on Jan. 4, 2002.

The DOJ next moved to withdraw the case against the Angs on Jan. 21, 2002. Umali denied the motion 10 days later, saying it was up to the court to determine the existence of probable cause.

In October, Pari executed an affidavit of desistance recommending the withdrawal of its complaint against the Ang couple. A month later, the court dismissed the case.

Case status: Ala, Cathy Ang and Choy are still at large. Lam is yet to be arraigned.

Armin Adina, PDI Research Department
with research by PDI trainee Gracee Velasquez

LETTERS PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

Parents and cheaters accepted by Filipinos

I KEEP noticing the use of "amnesia" or "short memory" or "forgiving quality" to characterize the Filipino people. These words and phrases are ubiquitous in the columns of so-called opinion-makers.

I saw "amnesia" again in the May 30 column of Amando Doronila. But the fact is that the Filipino people remember well though they do not necessarily forgive. The desire of supporters wanting government officials who did wrong rehabilitated should not be construed as forgiveness on the part of the entire Filipino people. Supporters are, well, supporters.

I would like to suggest that instead of "amnesia" and "forgiveness," acceptance of or resignation to the reality of a *"magulang"* culture characterizes the Filipinos in general. Filipinos are resigned to the fact that government officials take advantage of their position. Government officials are like heads of families: "*magulang*" or parents. Parents in Filipino families generally take advantage of their position of authority. And children accept the reality or resign to it. For when they have their turn to be parents or government officials, they can also be "*magulang*."

I wonder if there are other cultures in the world where the word for "parent" is synonymous to "cheater." My guess is "only in the Philippines."

—GRACIANUS REYES,
grr105@email.com

Scraping the bottom

ANG BABA na talaga ng inabot ng Pilipinas.

When a self-proclaimed publicist like Dante Ang rails and rambles before the Philippine Constitution Association (Philconsa) on the finer legal points of a major Supreme Court decision, we have indeed lost our sense of shame and self.

Lawyers by themselves seem to be in general disrepute. But when a publicist is allowed to preach the law to the country's premiere constitutionalists, we must be scraping bottom.

—ROMULO C. AGUSTIN,
Block 2 Lot 7, Ecotrend Subd.,
Barangay Ligas III, Bacoor

Sashimi, maggots and foreign relations

PINOY KASI

Michael L. Tan

PLEASE do not read this while eating.

If we are to believe the latest urban myths circulating through the Internet, eating sashimi (raw fish) causes maggots in the brain while "grilled and barbecued babies" are the "hottest food item" now in Japan, each fetus supposedly available for 10,000 to 12,000 yen (about P4,300 to P5,200) from hospitals.

These two "scoops" came in through my e-mail the last two weeks, complete with ghastly photographs. I could tell immediately that these were fabricated news, but to be sure, I checked an Internet site, www.snopes.com, which specializes in exposing these urban legends. Sure enough, the website had the two stories, entitled "maggot brain" and "fetal feast," complete with explanations on how these urban legends came to be.

The sashimi maggot yarn builds around an actual photograph of a man who was having a brain operation at Stanford University, following a vehicular accident. The "fetal feast" scam, on the other hand, was described as occurring in Taiwan, and featured the photograph of a man supposedly eating a fetus. It turns out the photograph was that of a Chinese performance artist doing his piece, "Eating People," with what looks like a doll's head grafted on to pieces of animal meat.

The new version forwarded to me had more photographs, including that of a woman in a grocery buying a bottle of "pickled brain." (I could read the Chinese characters, but I am certain it isn't human brain: the bottle was conveniently positioned to hide the other half of the label.) There was another picture showing a butcher slicing some brain, much too large to be human. Finally, there were several photographs of what looked to me like a hospital autopsy of an infant.

Urban legends often reflect social tensions and prejudices. As the Snopes website points out, if the fetus story had been located in Canada, people would have rejected it right away, but set in Taiwan (or now, Japan) it suddenly becomes plausible.

These anti-Japanese urban myths, even if intended to be jokes, will acquire a life of its own, people passing on the stories as facts and cited to "prove" the Japanese are immoral, if not amoral.

I know some readers are probably anxious now and wondering if indeed sashimi might cause brain maggots. I did my research and can say that sashimi isn't any riskier, in relation to food-borne bacteria and parasites, than other raw or lightly cooked seafood, including shrimps, mussels, clams and a wide assortment of fish, from salmon and herring to tuna and *tanguinge*.

Cultures all over the world have developed ways of marinating raw seafood, using onions, garlic, salt, limes, vinegar or wasabe (horseradish root) to disinfect the food. The risks of poisoning from these foods come not so much from their being raw than in the way they're handled, with bare hands for example, or if exposed to the heat and to insects and other contaminants.

But I wasn't intending today's column to deal with food safety so let's shift back now to the issue of urban myths and prejudice. I couldn't help but draw parallels between urban myths and our foreign relations, as exemplified by two recent incidents involving the President.

Readers will recall that the President recently took offense last week with Kojiro Takano, the Japanese ambassador, because of a speech he delivered before the Manila Overseas Press Club. The ambassador said he had spent "sleepless" nights for more than a year because he was "fearful of their (Japanese expatriates in the Philippines) safety," naming the threats of kidnappings, bombings and other terrorist acts.

The ambassador also said the Japanese were "confounded by changes in rules, confusing government policies and lack of coordination in government" and that Japanese investors felt "entrapped" because government policies were wanting "particularly in terms of consistency and transparency." Finally, Takano referred to a "large amount" of Japanese aid to the Philippines being stalled because the government was unable to absorb the money.

Following Ms Macapagal's expression of displeasure, there was the usual chorus of sycophants from among our officials and politicians, each trying to outdo the other with their outrage and demanding that the Japanese ambassador be expelled.

Note that the Japanese ambassador's speech only repeated points raised in a paper prepared by the Japanese Chamber of Commerce a month earlier, which supposedly had been sent to Malacañang but had not been acted on. Curiously, the American Chamber of Commerce (AmCham) also issued a paper a month ago, entitled "2003 Road Map to More Foreign Investment." AmCham called on the President to improve governance, accelerate legal reforms, modernize power and transport infrastructure, speed up privatization of state-owned firms, overhaul the Bureau of Internal Revenue, improve security, slow down population growth and reverse the deterioration of English among our workers. AmCham also described the current 12th Congress as the "slowest moving."

The President's response to the AmCham paper was positive, to say the least. Before flying off to Korea, she took time to acknowledge the AmCham paper and pledged her administration's commitment to structural reforms. In effect, while the Japanese ambassador was told to pack up his bags and leave because of his comments on the investment climate, similar suggestions from the AmCham elicited something more like this (you imagine the voice): "Thank you, thank you for your criticism. We promise to reform. Please stay."

Ms Macapagal's contrasting responses to the Japanese and to the Americans reflect the same selective jaundiced vision you find in urban myths. Even Hong Kong's South China Morning Post has noticed. In an article last week about Ms Macapagal's negative reactions to the Japanese ambassador, the Post recalled:

"Last year, however, (the US ambassador) Mr. Ricciardone came under fire for saying that 'corruption is a real problem for Americans in the Philippines.' There was no public outcry from Mrs. Arroyo at the time."

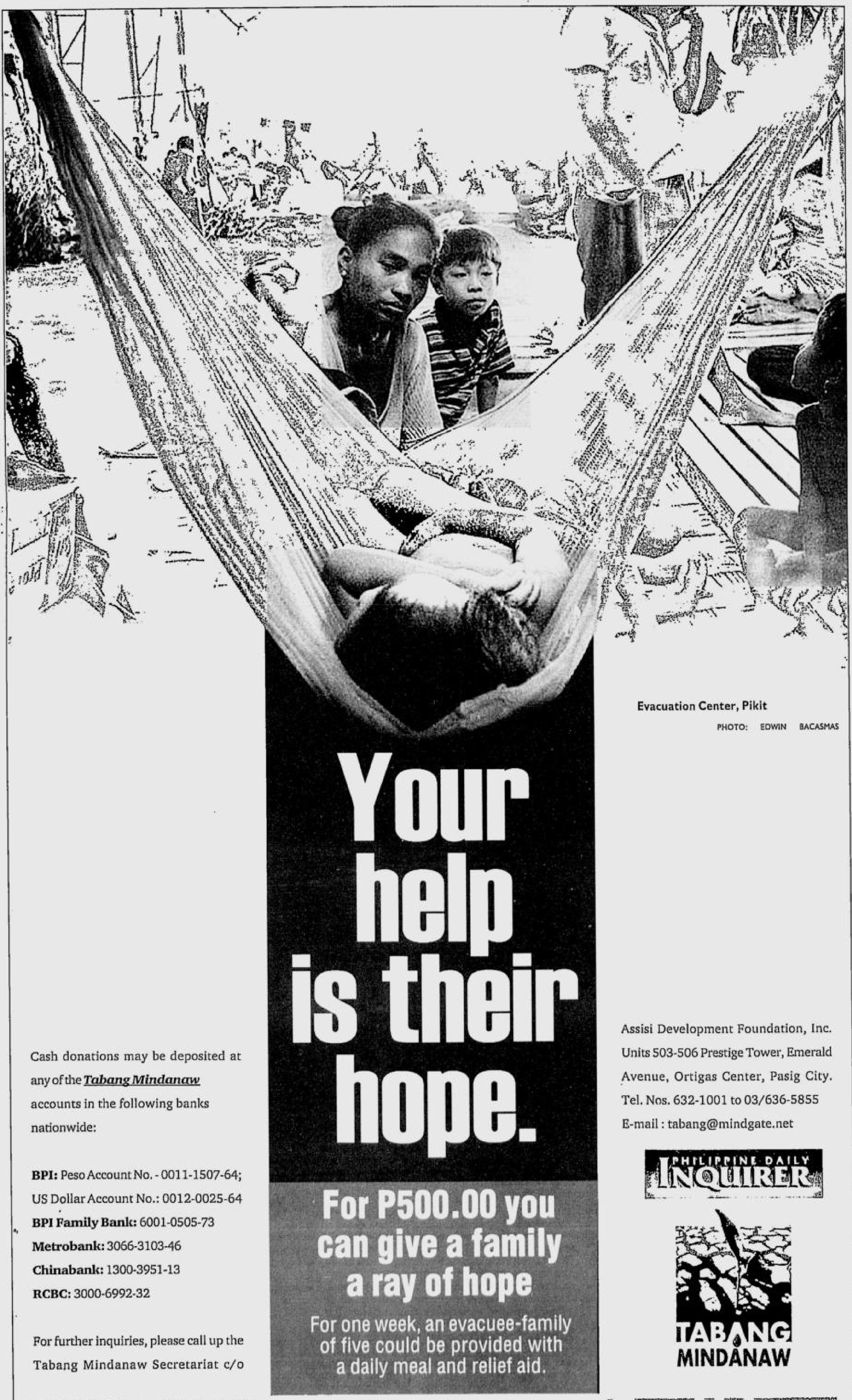


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PHOTO: EDWIN BACASMAS

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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

TABANG MINDANAW

Let's be there in their time of need.

The WORLD

Editor **Luverne B. Gueco**

IRAQ ARMS FUROR

MPs to probe British decision to go to war

LONDON—A powerful parliamentary committee decided late Tuesday to probe Britain's decision to go to war in Iraq, amid claims the government had embellished intelligence on weapons of mass destruction to justify the conflict.

The decision by the House of Commons Foreign Affairs committee comes after growing demands from deputies for an independent inquiry into allegations Prime Minister Tony Blair's office exaggerated intelligence reports to make Saddam Hussein's regime appear more menacing.

On Wednesday Blair is expected to announce that Britain's joint Intelligence and Security Committee (ISC) will look into the issue.

But many members of parliament are dissatisfied with that proposal, as the ISC meets behind closed doors and reports to the prime minister, not parliament.

Foreign Affairs Committee hearings are normally held in public and its reports are published.

Having won the war in Iraq, both Blair and US President George W. Bush are coming under fire at home for failing to come up with any convincing trace of Saddam's feared biological, chemical and nuclear weapons.

In both cases, the credibility of the president who prosecuted the Iraq war, and of his staunchest ally, appears to be on the line.

Foreign Affairs committee chair Donald Anderson told Britain's Press Association: "We are a different animal to the Intelligence and Security Committee.

"There would be a credibility problem with them which there would not be with our inquiry." Anderson's committee plans to take oral evidence from witnesses in June and publish a report in July.

No witness list has yet been drawn up, but Anderson said that the committee may invite Blair, Foreign Secretary Jack Straw and serving intelligence officers to give evidence.

"The obvious concern we would be addressing is the quality of intelligence material and the use of that material," Anderson said.

He hoped the investigation would satisfy those deputies, including former foreign secretary Robin Cook, who have been calling for a probe.

In a statement, the committee set out its aims: "The inquiry will consider whether the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, within the government as a whole, presented accurate and complete information to parliament in the period leading up to military action in Iraq, particularly in relation to Iraq's weapons of mass destruction."

Blair vigorously denies allegations that Downing Street "sexed up" a dossier on Iraq published in February, which notably claimed that Baghdad had the ability to deploy chemical or biological weapons in just 45 minutes.

However, that has not stopped opposition parties piling the pressure on Blair. Conservative party leader Iain Duncan Smith, who gave the government staunch support before and during the Iraq conflict, said the allegations of distortion of evidence risked undermining the credibility of Britain's intelligence services.

Earlier, Blair's official spokesperson insisted that there was no need for a wide-ranging independent public inquiry into the handling of intelligence material in the run-up to the war.

Leader of the House of Commons John Reid, a senior figure in Blair's ruling Labor Party, suggested that the row had been fueled by "rogue elements" in the intelligence services who were briefing journalists.

Reid told The Times: "There have been uncorroborated briefings by a potentially rogue element—or indeed rogue elements—in the intelligence services.

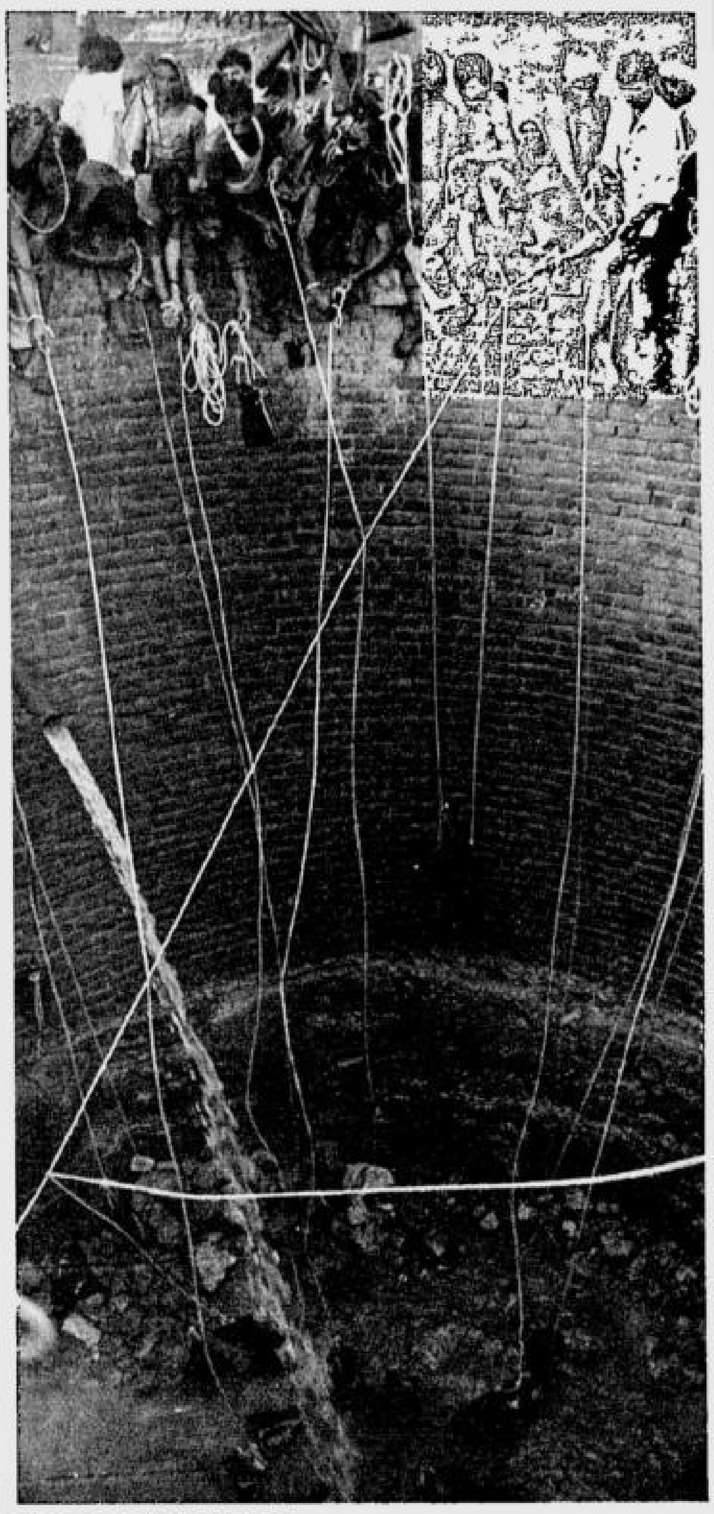
"I find it difficult to grasp why this should be believed against the word of the British prime minister."

Reid described the furor over the failure to find weapons of mass destruction so far as "ridiculous."

"We have not found WMD yet, but we have not found Saddam Hussein—and everyone knows he existed," he told The Times.

The crisis of trust around Blair's grounds for war brings his political credibility into question days before the British government must announce a crucial decision Monday on whether to back the adoption of the euro.

AFP



AP

DROUGHT IN INDIA

People lower buckets into a well to collect water in a village in the western Indian state of Gujarat, June 3. More than 3.6 million people have been hit by drought in five of 23 districts in Gujarat and 6 of 17 districts in Rajasthan states for a third straight year because of poor monsoon rains.

Canada has 5 more SARS infections

TORONTO—Canadian officials reported Tuesday five more active Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome cases for a total of 79 in Canada, where they have had 32 SARS-linked deaths.

Canada is the only country outside Asia to report any SARS-related deaths and all of them have occurred in the Toronto area since March.

Seven of the deaths here have been linked to a second outbreak that was made public on May 20 in Toronto, the provincial capital.

Tuesday, Ontario province had 64 probable SARS cases, up from 62 Monday, and 13 suspect cases, up from 10 Monday.

Sixteen of the 71 people who remain in hospital were in critical or deteriorating condition.

There also are two suspect cases in the western province of British Columbia.

Ontario's commissioner of public health, Colin D'Cunha, said that health officials are starting "to see the beginning of a tail-off.

"But I want to stress that we're not out of the woods."

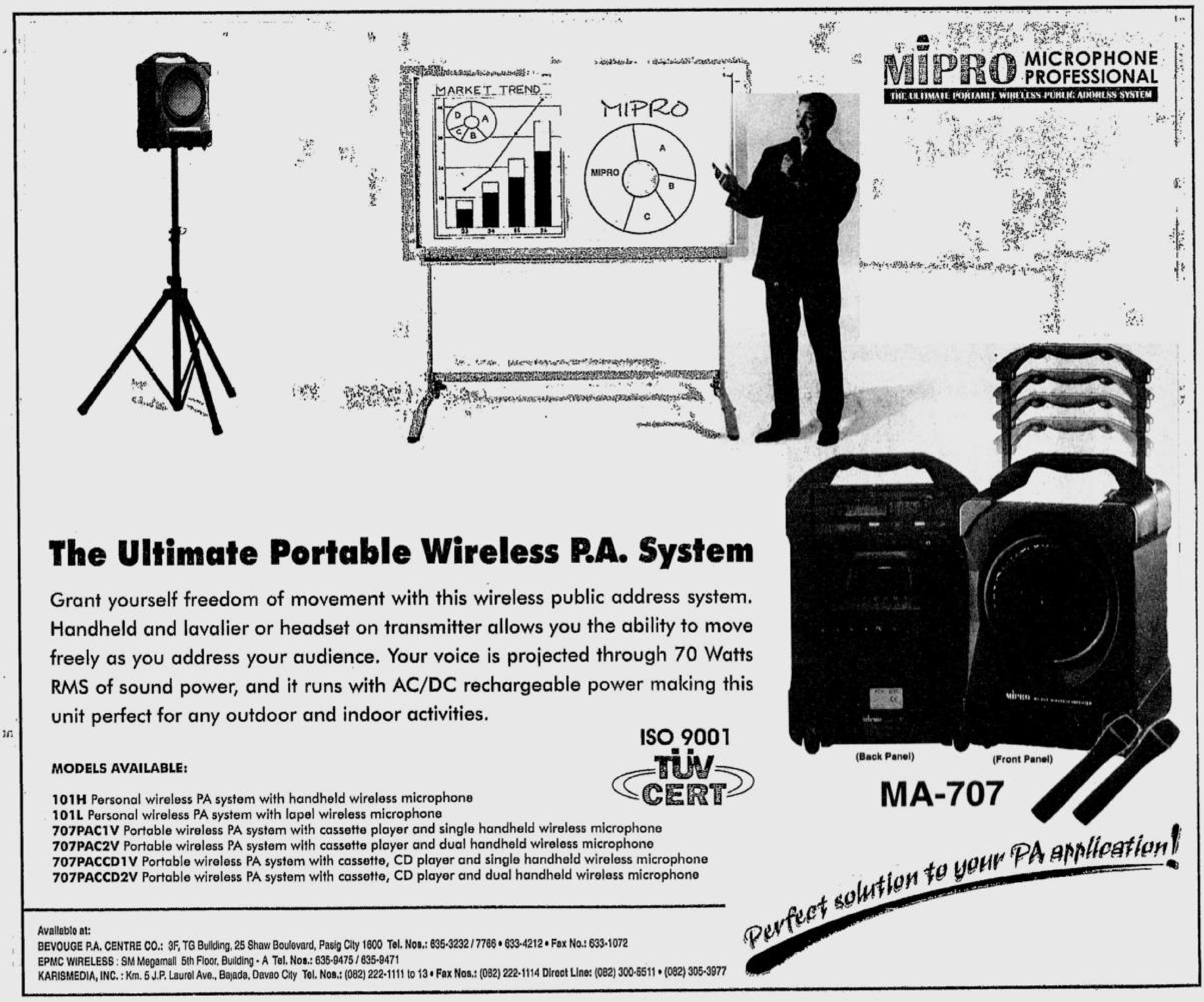
Meanwhile, the number of people in precautionary 10-day quarantine dropped to 5,200 Tuesday from 6,800 Monday, including thousands of health care workers who came off so-called working quarantine.

Officials were pleased that the World Health Organization has not issued another travel advisory against Canada's largest city, even though it is reporting new cases and its probable active caseload tops 60.

James Young, Ontario's commissioner of public security, said the numbers tell part of the story, but the downward direction of the epidemiological curve was more telling.

Meanwhile, officials said the last onset of illness for a probable SARS case was on May 31.

AFP



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G-8 leaders confident of economic recovery

EVIAN, France—The world's eight leading industrial powers voiced confidence in an economic recovery on Tuesday at the anticlimactic end of their annual summit, which was dominated by efforts to patch up differences over Iraq.

In a final statement, the Group of Eight (G-8) nations focused on the need to press ahead with structural reforms and greater flexibility in the rich nations' economies despite resistance highlighted by public sector strikes in host country France.

Although the statement did not mention currencies, French President Jacques Chirac said all agreed currency stability was a key factor for growth and were monitoring market movements closely after the dollar's recent sharp fall against the euro.

The leaders sought to close a bitter transatlantic dispute over the recent US-led war on Iraq, which half the G-8 opposed, saying all now agreed the time had come to reconstruct Iraq.

Summit host Chirac could not resist restating his view that the US-led war to oust Saddam Hussein was "illegitimate and illegal," adding the United States might wage war alone but it needed others' help to build peace.

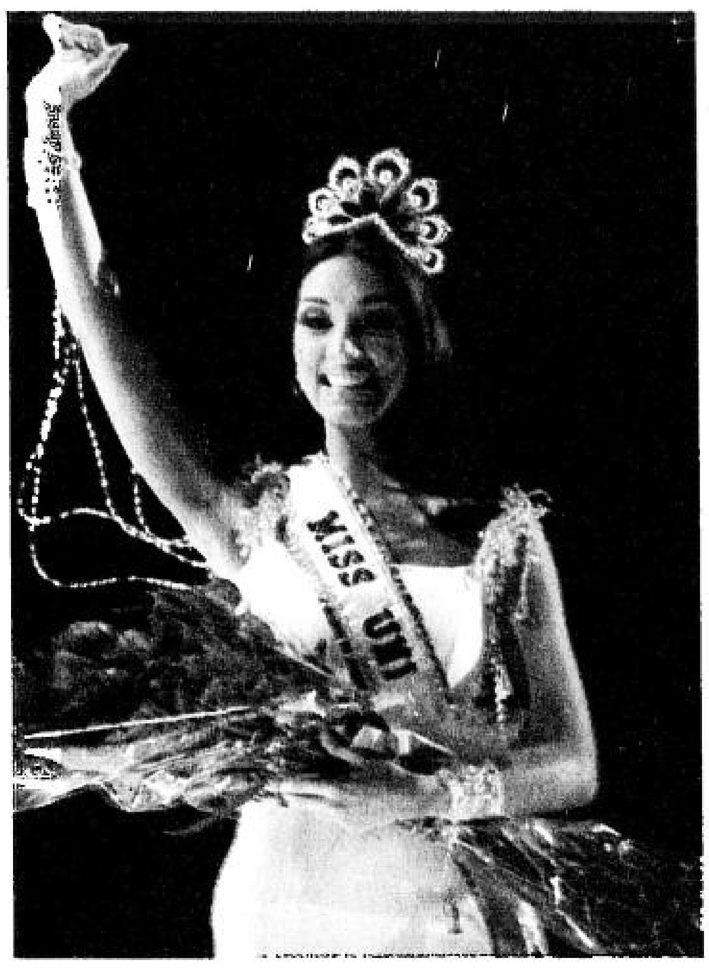
"Major downside risks have receded and the conditions for a recovery are in place," the leaders of the United States, Japan, Russia, Germany, France, Britain, Italy and Canada said in a statement issued a day after US President George W. Bush left the summit early for Middle East peace talks.

"We are confident in the growth potential of our economies."

Economists said the summit conclusion was not just wishful thinking. "There are some grounds to be more hopeful with regard to the recovery process," said Audrey Childe-Freeman, European economist at CIBC World Markets in London.

Several thousand demonstrators blocked the main bridge over the Rhone river in the Swiss city of Geneva, 40 km from the summit site, and clashed for a third night with police.

The G-8 talks were held behind a massive security cordon at the French spa town of Evian, on the other side of Lake Geneva. *Reuters*



LOVELIEST IN THE UNIVERSE AFP

Miss Dominican Republic Amelia Vega smiles after she was crowned Miss Universe 2003, June 3 in Panama City, Panama. Seventy-one delegates participated in the 52nd Annual Miss Universe Competition.

Uday was hiding in Baghdad 11 days ago, says double

DUBLIN—Saddam Hussein's elder son Uday was in hiding in Baghdad 11 days ago and had considered giving himself up to US forces, a former body double said on Tuesday.

Latif Yahia said he obtained his information in a satellite telephone call with a mutual friend in Baghdad 10 days ago.

The friend said that Uday and two bodyguards had stayed at his house in Baghdad for the two prior nights.

Yahia, who is in Ireland awaiting a visa to rejoin his family in England, said he did not know where Uday was now.

"He wants to surrender but keeps changing his mind. He sits in his wheelchair crying, he can't go outside because he knows he'll be killed," said Yahia, who acted as a body double for Uday for more than four years before fleeing Iraq in 1991.

"Uday spent two nights at (the friend's) house. My friend told me that he was in bits— he needs medicine for his injuries but he has none," added Yahia.

Uday was left partially paralyzed after a failed attempt to kill him in 1996. Iraqi doctors who had treated Saddam's family said recently that Uday ended up with a slight limp.

Uday has been accused of brutal human rights abuses including torture and rape. Nothing has been heard of him or other family members since US-led forces overthrew the former Iraqi regime in April. *Reuters*

Bush gets Arab backing for ME peace road map

AQABA, Jordan—Armed with welcome Arab backing, US President George W. Bush is in Jordan on Wednesday for a crucial summit with the Israeli and Palestinian prime ministers to win their commitment to Middle East peace.

Bush leaves Egypt's Red Sea resort of Sharm el-Sheikh, where a summit with five Arab leaders supported the US-backed Middle East peace "road map," and travels to the Jordanian port of Aqaba, a linchpin stop in his hectic sprint across six nations.

Bush's goal is to get Israel Premier Ariel Sharon and Palestinian Prime Minister Mahmud Abbas to halt 32 months of bloodshed resulting from a Palestinian uprising against occupation and take steps to nurse along the "road map" that envisions creating a Palestinian state by 2005.

"I hope that this laying of the groundwork for peace in the Middle East, as tough as the challenge is, will continue in Aqaba tomorrow," a senior Saudi official said after the summit in Egypt, which included Abbas.

"It is there where the action should really begin. It is there where the commitments really mean something," he said.

There are some encouraging signs toward meeting the road map's first requirements of ending Palestinian violence against Israelis, and Israelis easing some restrictions on Palestinians.

Responding to US pressure for conciliatory moves, Israel freed almost 100 prisoners in time for the summit.

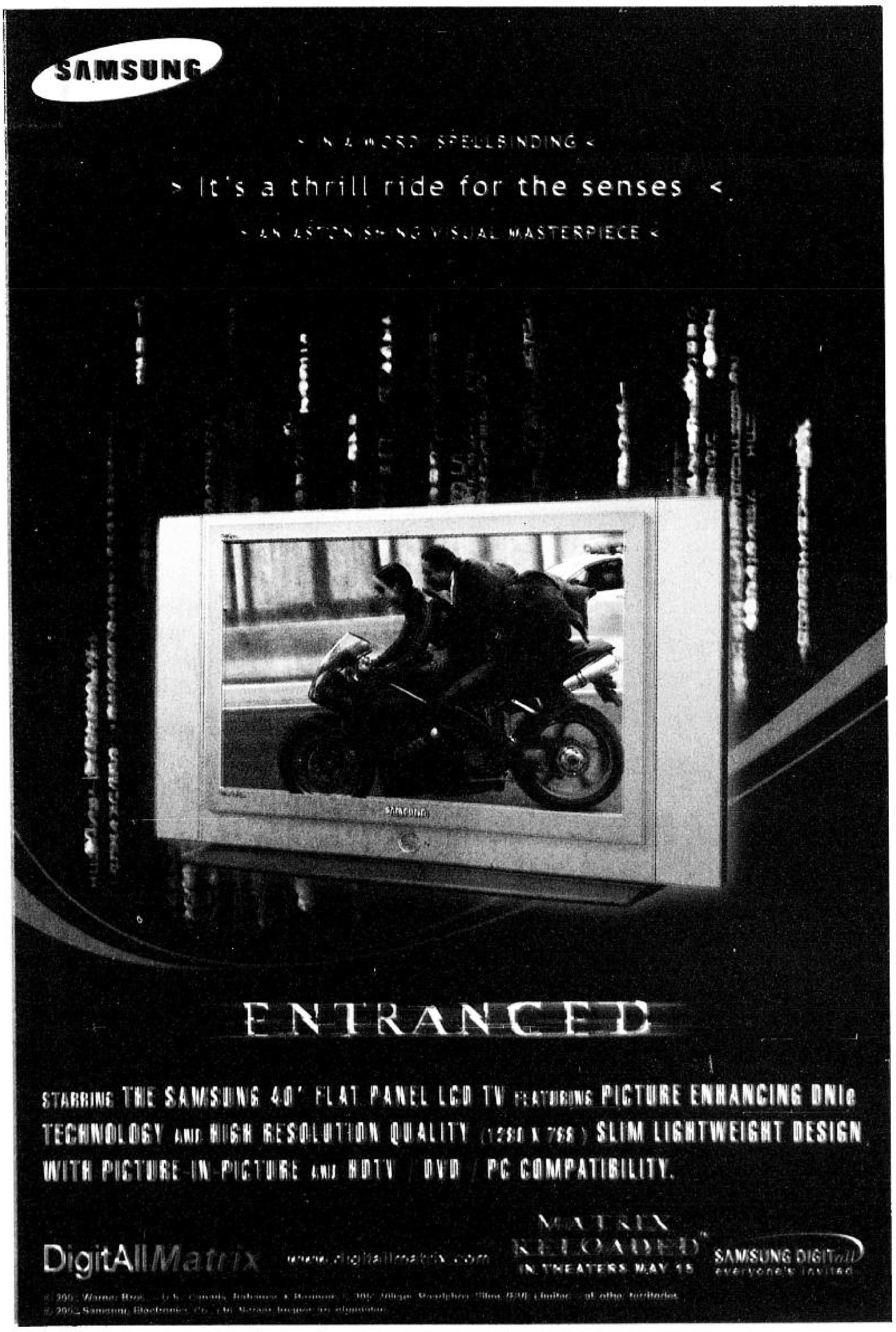
And Abbas said last weekend he expected militant Palestinian factions to agree to a ceasefire in their battle against Israeli occupation within 20 days.

But doubts remain over each side's commitment to implementing the peace plan. The US side is predicting a long, hard path ahead despite the encouraging sounds coming from Sharm el-Sheikh, where Arab leaders said they backed the road map.

"This would have been resolved a long time ago if there were not difficult issues," Bush's national security adviser, Condoleezza Rice, told reporters in Egypt.

In Egypt, Bush heard leaders from Egypt, Saudi Arabia, Jordan and Bahrain pledge to do their part in trying to push the road map forward. They vowed to crack down on sources of financing for "terrorist groups," as Washington has demanded, and support the Palestinian effort.

But one key figure, Syria's President Bashar al-Assad, was absent, and Syria on Tuesday criticized the peace drive as a US attempt to end a Palestinian uprising for independence while turning a blind eye to what it called Israeli "crimes." *Reuters*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WHEN TRAINS COLLIDE AFP

The cars of a passenger train and a goods train sit in a twisted pile after a collision in the Spanish town of Chinchilla early June 4. Five people were killed and 30 were injured when the mainline passenger train from Madrid collided with the goods train.

Martha Stewart faces criminal indictment

NEW YORK—Martha Stewart, who built a catering business into a media and design empire, faces a criminal indictment related to her sale of shares in ImClone Systems Inc., a biotech firm run by a close friend.

The US Attorney's Office for the Southern District of New York intends to seek a grand jury indictment against Stewart, according to a statement from her company, Martha Stewart Living Omnimedia Inc. The company also said it expects a civil complaint by the Securities and Exchange Commission.

The latest development in the yearlong probe dragged the company's stock down as much as 20 percent as investors were gathering for the company's annual meeting in New York. The shares ended down $1.68, or 15 percent, at $9.52 on Tuesday.

CNBC television said Stewart could be indicted and arrested as early as Wednesday on obstruction of justice charges, citing unnamed sources familiar with the matter.

A federal law enforcement official with knowledge of the case said an indictment could come as early as this week.

CNBC also said Stewart was likely to resign as chair and CEO of her company following any indictment.

But, in a videotaped message played at the annual meeting on Tuesday, Stewart said she would not resign from the company, according to Carolyn Stack, a shareholder who attended the meeting. It was not clear when Stewart's message was taped.

Stewart, 61, is under investigation for selling ImClone shares in December 2001, a day before the biotechnology firm said federal regulators had declined to review its marketing application for an experimental cancer drug.

Stewart and ImClone's cofounder, Sam Waksal, were close friends, often seen and photographed together at events in New York. Investigators have been probing whether she was among a group of friends and family members whom Waksal is accused of having tipped about the US Food and Drug Administration's plans to reject the company's experimental cancer treatment.

A federal law enforcement source said the investigation has focused on whether Stewart engaged in insider trading and whether she lied to congressional investigators.

The new developments were viewed by analysts as ending all remaining hope that Stewart could dodge deeper entanglement and mend the costly damage inflicted on her magazine, television and merchandising businesses. *Reuters*

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FOOD FOR PMA CADETS TOOTS SOBERANO

Soldiers bring in food and other supplies from a Philippine Air Force helicopter to the site of field training exercises of Philippine Military Academy cadets in Subic.

Presidential candidates to take drug tests, too

BAGUIO CITY—Should stalwarts of the administration party Lakas-CMD convince President Macapagal-Arroyo to join the 2004 presidential race, they are also ensuring that she would submit herself to mandatory drug testing.

Local Government Secretary Jose Lina Jr. said all political candidates and presidential appointees are required to pass drug tests, as government maximized its anti-drug program to include high schools and colleges this school opening.

Lina said political aspirants must bear drug-free clearances when they submit their candidacy before the Commission on Elections in 2004, while presidential appointees must obtain negative drug results prior to receiving their appointment papers from Malacañang.

The clearance will also be required of presidential appointees who undergo the confirmation hearings of the Commission on Appointments.

"This is in accordance with the state power of government (which is pursuing the state of) a drug-free Philippines before 2010," Lina said.

No one is exempt from the reinforced application of Republic Act 9165 (the updated law creating the Dangerous Drugs Board), he said.

"For the police, the military and other law enforcement agencies, drug testing is annual and mandatory. For students (of) secondary and tertiary schools, random drug tests (are required) based on school rules and regulations. Therefore, (both public and private) schools must come up with (rules), and the cost will be (shouldered) by the government," Lina said.

"For those working in government (agencies) and in the private sector, officials and employees, (are required) random drug testing, (those expenses) will be shouldered by their employers," he added.

"This will deter users of illegal drugs (in order to) bring down the demand for illegal drugs. This is part of the demand reduction strategy of government. The other strategy is supply reduction, meaning the actual suppression of drug pushers, their arrest, their charging in court, the destruction of drug supply laboratories," Lina said.

Lina addressed on Tuesday some 640 graduates of a barangay *tanod* (village guards) "professionalization course" for the Cordillera. He said 800,000 *tanod* in the country would soon be tapped to deal with the increasing national crime volume and illegal drugs.

Lina said the 110,000-member Philippine National Police had been tasked with monitoring the drug plague. But in the absence of 250,000 more policemen to cover the country, the DILG will now rely on some 800,000 auxiliary *tanod* to supplement an emergency response system now being developed in the country's barangays.

Most of the "professionalized" *tanod*, who have undergone the DILG courses, were taught rudimentary police work, emergency medical training and clerical functions. *Vincent Cabreza, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

Rebels raid AFP outpost; 1 killed

BALINGASAG, Misamis Oriental—Communist rebels raided a military detachment in Barangay Kibanban here on Tuesday morning, killing one soldier and fleeing with assorted firearms, according to the military.

A military report identified the fatality as Cpl. Winifredo Simbajon.

A militiaman, identified as Rizalino Nabua, and his wife Juana were wounded. They were brought to Camp Edilberto Evangelista in Patag, Cagayan de Oro City and have been declared out of danger.

The report said about 30 members of the New People's Army stormed the patrol base of the 9th Infantry Battalion based in Sitio Lantaca around 9 a.m.

Before fleeing, the rebels seized six Armalite rifles and seven Garand rifles, including assorted ammunitions.

The military sent out two MG-520 attack helicopters and a fighter plane to bomb the possible escape route of the rebels.

Ka Allan Juanito, spokesperson for the Julito Tiro Command of the Regional Operations of the NPA in Northern Mindanao, confirmed that their forces were behind the raid.

In a phone interview, he attributed much of the success of the offensive to the military's laxity.

The rebel leader clarified that the raid had nothing to do with recent attacks against the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) in the Lanao provinces.

It was a pure NPA initiative to beef up the number of its firearms, he said.

Insp. Carlos Oliveros, Balingasag police chief, said that at the time of the raid, only Simbajon and at least nine militiamen were manning the outpost.

He said most of the soldiers assigned there were earlier sent to Lanao del Norte to join a large military contingent running after Moro rebels. *Grace C. Albasin, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

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Dads oppose use of hospital as SARS facility

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO—The city council approved an ordinance excluding the use of the Jose B. Lingad Memorial Regional Hospital (JBLMRH) here as a quarantine center for suspected patients of Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome.

But the council's decision has clashed with the policy of the Department of Health, which designated the facility as the lone SARS referral center in Central Luzon.

Ordinance No. 2003-010 instead required suspected SARS victims in this city to "undergo testing and be quarantined (either at) San Lazaro Hospital in Manila or (at) the Research Institute for Tropical Medicine in Muntinlupa or other appropriate hospitals officially designated until such time that the DOH issues a SARS negative clearance."

No reason was cited on the decision to leave out the JBLMRH, one of the health department's 15 SARS referral centers in the country.

Councilor Jose Quiwa III, the ordinance sponsor, said he, his colleagues and Mayor Reynaldo Aquino, a doctor by profession, made the move to "reduce the risk of exposure (of residents)" to SARS infection.

The city did not have a local SARS suspect or infected person.

Since March, when an overseas Filipino worker from Canada exhibited symptoms of a typical pneumonia when she returned to nearby Angeles City, San Fernando officials opposed the DOH's use of the JBLMRH as an isolation center.

Councilor Raul Macalino, a co-sponsor of the ordinance, moved for the exclusion of the JBLMRH. Only committee hearings, not public hearings, were held because the ordinance did not set penalties or sanctions, Macalino said.

He said the councilors were "trying to avoid the misimpression that the JBLMRH will be the only hospital in the region (to) exclusively attend to SARS suspects."

The council removed the hospital from the list, even as the national government had made available to the DOH Central Luzon office at least P25 million to help the hospital deal with SARS cases, according to Councilor Noel Tulabut.

Dr. Ethelyn Nieto, health regional director, did not contest the ordinance but said her office would continue using the hospital until the DOH central office removed the JBLMRH from its list of SARS referral facilities. *Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

Taiwanese fails to see wife

TACLOBAN CITY—From the airport, he immediately rushed to the Eastern Visayas Regional Medical Center to see his wife who was suspected of suffering from Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome.

But health authorities yesterday barred the Taiwanese businessman from seeing his Filipino wife, identified only as "EK," who has been confined in the hospital's isolation room since Sunday.

Ligaya Anacta Acosta, health regional information officer, said the Taiwanese was "so concerned" about EK's condition, but the attending physician had told him not to see his wife as a precaution against the spread of the virus, in case she turned out to be positive of SARS.

"Of course, he liked to see EK but we had to advise him otherwise for his own safety," Acosta said.

She refused to give information about EK's husband except that he is a Taiwanese businessman.

"He did not (show) any symptoms of SARS. We are also monitoring him," she said.

Although they could not see each other, EK and her husband talked through mobile phones.

EK, of Hilongos town in Leyte, arrived from Taiwan on May 17 to celebrate her birthday with her family on June 20. On May 29, she went to see a private physician in Hilongos after having fever and difficulty in breathing, two of the symptoms of possible SARS.

The doctor immediately informed the local health official of EK's condition, and the official, in turn, notified Dr. Nicholas Bautista, DOH-8 chief epidemiologist, who picked up the woman from her home in Hilongos with a department ambulance and brought her to the EVRMC. *Joey A. Gabieta, PDI Visayas Bureau*

Iloilo execs vow to support fight against Bt corn

By Ma. Diosa Labiste
PDI Visayas Bureau

ILOILO CITY—Local officials have pledged to declare the city and Iloilo province free of genetically modified corn or Bt corn.

Councilors Vicente Gengos and Joshua Alim vowed to author a resolution declaring the city Bt corn-free.

Board member Victorino Salcedo II also promised to pass a similar resolution at the provincial board.

The Archdiocese of Jaro is behind the move to convince officials to declare the city and province off-limits to genetically modified corn.

On June 3, the archdiocese invited elected officials, civic leaders and heads of major religious congregations to listen to Nicanor Perlas talk about the potential risks of Genetically Modified Organisms (GMOs).

Perlas heads the Center for Alternative Development Initiatives (Cadi) that promotes sustainable agriculture.

Among those who attended the forum were Gengos and Alim and provincial board members Salcedo, Romulo Cabana, Angel Briones, Henry Anotado and Vicente Ramirez.

Bt corn has a bacterium *Bacillus thuringiensis* added to its genes, rendering the corn less vulnerable to Asian corn borer (*Ostrinia furnacalis*).

Environmentalists and sustainable agriculture advocates are seeking the recall of government approval for the commercialization of Bt corn, citing its potential risks to human health and the environment, and the high costs of seeds.

"When deciding on things that involves morality and life, choose the safer way," said Jaro Archbishop Angel Lagdameo. "The same applies to GMOs and Bt corn."

Fr. Meliton Oso, head of the Social Action center of Jaro Archdiocese, said the city and provincial officials promised to pass the resolutions this month.

The archdiocese also urged its priests in 87 parishes to speak against GMOs after listening to Perlas' talk.

Religious-run schools were also asked to include GMOs in their lessons based on the materials provided by the archdiocese, mainly pastoral letters and discussion papers.

In a press statement, the Department of Agriculture said the Administrative Order No. 8, which approved the commercialization of Bt corn, was a "product of almost three years of national consultation with various stakeholders."

It added that the agencies that undertook scientific and technical assessment have concluded that the commercialization of Bt corn "poses no significant risks."

Iloilo has close to 4,000 hectares of cornfields, with big plantations in the northern towns of Sara and San Dionisio.

Iloilo is not among the areas targeted for commercial growing of Bt corn, said Inocencio Parian, provincial agriculturist.

NFA rice stocks quality checked

NATIONAL Food Authority Administrator Arthur C. Yap has directed all field officials of the food agency to keep a tight watch over the quality of rice stocks in their areas in line with the agency's implementation of the "Total Rice Quality Program."

Yap issued the directive as he acted on the reported existence of some 45,000 bags of rice and palay husks that have been stored in a warehouse in the NFA office in Tuguegarao City in Cagayan since 2000, according to a press statement.

He appointed Jaime Asuncion, NFA senior deputy administrator, to head a team to investigate the report.

Asuncion has also been instructed to conduct an inspection of all NFA warehouses across the country to ascertain the quality of the agency's stored stocks.

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Power rates cut in Visayas, Mindanao

By Ronnel W. Domingo

ELECTRICITY users in the Visayas and Mindanao will enjoy lower rates in their next billing after the Energy Regulatory Commission granted provisional authority to power cooperatives in their areas to reduce charges by as much as 40 centavos per kilowatt-hour.

The rate reductions are an offshoot of bigger savings realized by the cooperatives following the writing off of their debts, totaling about P17 billion, incurred from the National Electricification Administration and other government agencies.

The debt condonation is mandated under Section 60 of the Electric Power Industry Reform Act of 2001.

On May 7, the ERC issued separate orders granting provisional authority to Samelco (Samar Electric Cooperative) to reduce rates by 40.02 centavos per kWh; Bileco (Biliran), 21.35 centavos per kWh; Esamelco (Eastern Samar), 19.83 centavos per kWh; Moresco I (Misamis Oriental I), 13.44 centavos per kWh; Camelco (Camiguin), 12.98 centavos per kWh;

Buseco II (Bukidnon II), 12.62 centavos per kWh; Laneco (First Lanao del Norte), 12.14 centavos per kWh; Leyeco II (Leyte II), 5.62 centavos per kWh; and Leyeco V (Leyte V), 4.41 centavos per kWh.

The orders brought to 17 the number of electric cooperatives that have been given provisional authority to reduce rates.

In March, the ERC allowed eight electric cooperatives to slash their rates between 7 centavos and 24 centavos per kWh.

Those granted authority were Batangas II (Batelec II), 24.1 centavos per kWh; Antique (Anteco), 18.84 centavos per kWh; Quezon I (Quezelco I), 16.08 centavos per kWh; Tablas Island Electric Cooperative (Tielco), 13.61 centavos per kWh);

Iloilo II (Ileco II), 11.03 centavos per kWh; Iloilo I (Ileco I), 9.22 centavos per kWh; Capiz (Capelco), 9.02 centavos per kWh; and the Oriental Mindoro Electic Cooperative (Ormeco), 7.14 centavos per kWh.

Data from the party-list Association of Philippine Electric Cooperatives showed that the debt write-off would enable the country's 119 power cooperatives to slash their rates from a low of 0.7 centavo to as high as P1.16 per kWh.

Batangas woes

In Batangas, tropical storm "Chedeng" might not have hit hard, but it left Ibaan town's business sector with about P20 million losses daily since the brownouts started on May 28.

The power problem, which started since the '80s, has now rendered four feedmills, about 30 big piggeries and small and medium businesses inoperable, raising overhead costs of maintaining equipment every day.

Ibaan is an agricultural town located 13 km east of Batangas city and is dominated by big livestock businesses.

"All businessmen here have already bought generators to keep the business going, but the cost of maintenance has been a heavy burden on us. The household problems are also worsening," a local businessman said.

A male resident complained of high hospital costs when his son was hospitalized after drinking water from an artesian well.

During the first days of the power outage, water supply was also disrupted, forcing residents to draw water from artesian wells.

Ex-Army Col. Nicetas Katigbak, who owns Ibaan Electric and Engineering Corp. (IEEC), the local power distributor, said the brownout started when a Napocor post in Barangay Talaibon fell on one of the IEEC substations on May 28, busting its power transformer.

"We were in the middle of modernizing the entire IEEC system this year when the strong winds brought by the storm hit the post. Repairs are now ongoing to bring back power supply to the town," Katigbak said. *With a report from Mei Magsino, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

Maguindanao vice mayor linked to blast arrested

KIDAPAWAN CITY—Police on Friday arrested a vice mayor of a Maguindanao town and two of his colleagues in M'lang, North Cotabato for possession of an explosive material.

Datu Benny Pua Mukalid, vice mayor of Datu Piang, is also one of the suspects behind the explosion in his town in December last year that killed Mayor Saudi Ampatuan.

Mukalid was arrested at a checkpoint in Barangay Sangat, M'lang after police found that one of his companions was carrying a grenade. The grenade was recovered from Brando Demalin Agan.

Supt. Melchor Loyola, police chief for North Cotabato, said the group was on its way to Midsayap town on a motorcycle, when the police stopped the vehicle.

Loyola said Mukalid identified himself as Lawrence Tuan Navidad, but it was found out later during the investigation that he was being hunted down on multiple murder and multiple frustrated murder charges, for the Datu Piang bombing.

Before the arrest, Loyola said they had received intelligence reports that the Moro Islamic Liberation Front would conduct bombing operations, prompting the setting up of checkpoints in the entire province. *Jeffrey M. Tupas, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

ROUNDUP

4 die in collision

DAVAO CITY—Four persons were killed when a taxicab and a cargo truck collided in Braulio Dujali town in Davao del Norte on Sunday. Reports reaching the police identified the fatalities as Roger Ruelo, the taxi driver, and his three passengers, Josephine Balbuena and her son Darwin, and Erlinda Natara, all of Babak, Island Garden City of Samal. The truck was reportedly transporting pigs when it figured in the accident.
Anthony S. Allada, PDI Mindanao Bureau

Help for farmers

BAYOMBONG, Nueva Vizcaya—Local farmers received cash assistance and farm equipment from Agriculture Secretary Luis Lorenzo Jr. on Saturday as part of the government's effort to improve agricultural marketing and trading in the provinces. Lorenzo released P1.5 million in fund assistance for the proposed Nueva Vizcaya Agricultural Terminal (NVAT) that will be established in Bambang town. He also turned over a P1.6-million pressurized irrigation system for the Malabing Valley Citrus Farmers Cooperative and a mechanical dryer for the local government of Kasibu.
Ben Moses Ebreo, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

Cop found dead

CAMP GEN. ALEJO SANTOS, Bulacan—Residents in Marilao found a police officer dead in his jeep in Barangay Sta. Rosa on Sunday. Reports identified the lawman as Chief Insp. Orlando Olaran, deputy police chief of San Jose del Monte City. Investigators ruled out foul play in Olaran's death, saying his .45 cal. service firearm and other valuables were intact. Autopsy reports showed Olaran had a heart attack.
Carmela Reyes, PDI Central Luzon Desk

Sued for wastes

CLARK FIELD, Pampanga—Mayor Pastor Guiao of Magalang has ordered the filing of charges against two persons believed responsible for dumping Metro Manila hospital wastes in his town. The municipal government will charge Edgar Gallardo, owner of the truck hauling hospital wastes from a treatment plant in Parañaque City, and Dan Ramos, owner of the private lot in Barangay Sta. Lucia in Magalang that was used as a dump for several months. Lormelyn Claudio, regional director of the Environmental Management Bureau, said her office issued on May 19 notices of violations to Gallardo and Ramos, and ordered them to clean up and close the illegal dump. Claudio said the two have been transporting and dumping wastes in the area without permit from the Department of Environment and Natural Resources.
Jun Malig, PDI Central Luzon Desk

False accusations

VIGAN CITY—Mayors in Ilocos Sur have denounced reports claiming that the province was in a "state of lawlessness" following the recent ambush-slaying of family members of former board member Efren Rafanan. In a resolution issued on May 19, members of the League of Municipalities of the Philippines-Ilocos Sur Chapter said they were "jolted and agitated" by the imputations. "These false accusations are products of frustrations and desperate acts of people for their personal gains and ambitions in the field of politics," they said. At least 17 of the 32 Ilocos Sur mayors endorsed the resolution.
Leoncio Balbin Jr., PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

Fil-Chi farm

THE FEDERATION of Filipino-Chinese Chambers of Commerce and Industry has set up an experimental farm along the North Expressway in Mabalacat, Pampanga to improve local varieties of vegetables and raise the living standards of farmers, according to a news release. Following two Chinese adages, "good seed means good seedling" and "good seedling means half harvest," the federation planted 20 types of vegetables, including towel gourd, cucumber, pumpkin, eggplant, kidney beans, extra-sweet corn, peanut, sunflower, papaya and banana imported from China, Taiwan, South Korea and Israel. The farm intends to test and popularize foreign improved varieties and agricultural technology.

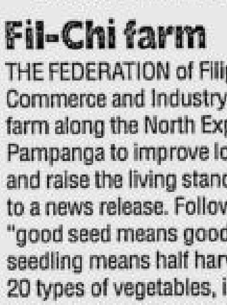
Blind woman killed

LEGAZPI CITY—A 53-year-old blind woman was raped and killed allegedly by her own nephew in Barangay Gatbo, Ocampo town in Camarines Sur. Police said the victim, Norma Nazareno went to fetch water in a well near their house around 6 p.m. Wednesday but failed to return home. The victim's family sought assistance from the barangay police who found the lifeless victim in a shallow ditch. The suspect, Luis Dominguez, 19, fled after seeing the village guards.
Joyce Mejillano, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Police education

CALAMBA CITY—Chief Supt. Jaime Caringal, newly installed police director of the Calabarzon, recently signed a memorandum of agreement with the International Academy for Management and Economics (IAME) to give opportunities for policemen to earn higher degrees. Caringal said the move was in line with an order of the PNP chief, Director General Hermogenes Ebdane, to facilitate better education opportunities for policemen in the country. The project will offer baccalaureate and post-graduate degrees to the policemen.
Marlon Ramos, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Countdown for Justice



WAPILE

IT IS exactly 388 days today since Pagadian journalist Edgar Damalerio was slain in cold blood. The principal suspect, police officer Guillermo Wapile, remains at large after escaping while in the custody of the police.

WHAT IS THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN MICRO-NUTRIENTS & IMMUNITY?.

Macro-nutrient intake means the total energy you get from carbohydrate, protein and fat. Micro-nutrient, on the other hand, refer to the vitamins, minerals and trace elements in food. Research discovered that an insufficiency in macro-nutrient intake to meet metabolic needs creates a deficiency in micro-nutrients within the body. This deficiency impairs the synthesis of molecules necessary for efficient immune response and the functioning of immune related enzyme systems.

What micro-nutrients are needed for a healthy immune system?
As a rule, you need all the vitamins, minerals and trace elements you can get to boost your health. There are immune specific micro-nutrients that help our body fight off diseases. They are vitamins A, B_6, B_{12}, C and E; folic acid and the minerals magnesium, selenium and zinc.

Is it possible to get all these micro-nutrients today?
It is possible, but hard considering the fast-food culture we are in. It is so easy to just buy your food at your favorite burger joint or pop open a can of "ready-to-eat" to fill your needs. Realistically, since most of the micro-nutrients belong to different food groups, you may have to prepare a virtual feast to get all of them at once! In the end, it may be easier to take a nutritional supplement.
But not all nutritional supplements have all the micro-nutrients present. Of course, the basic vitamins will always be there. But once you look for minerals like zinc and selenium, that is when they falter. Read the contents carefully whenever you buy a nutritional supplement.

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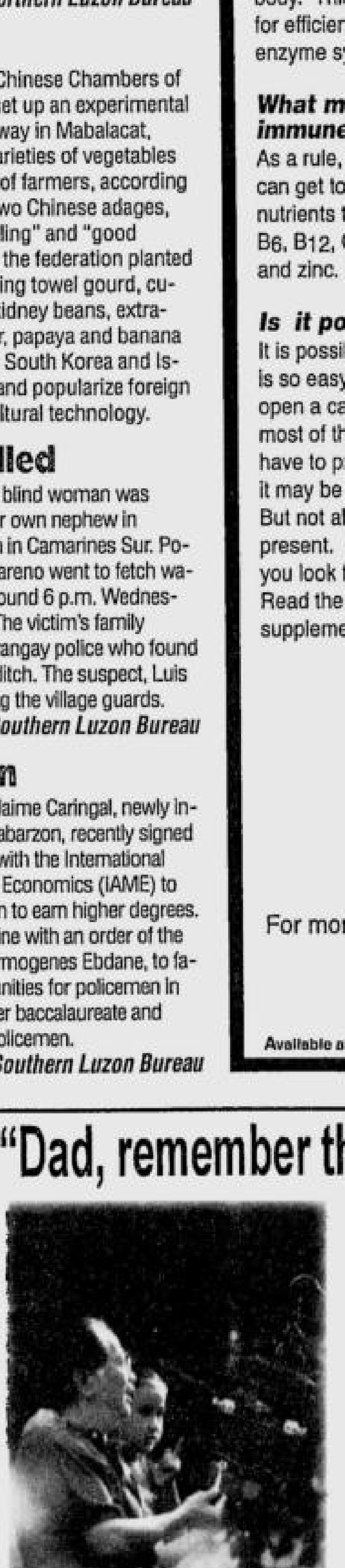

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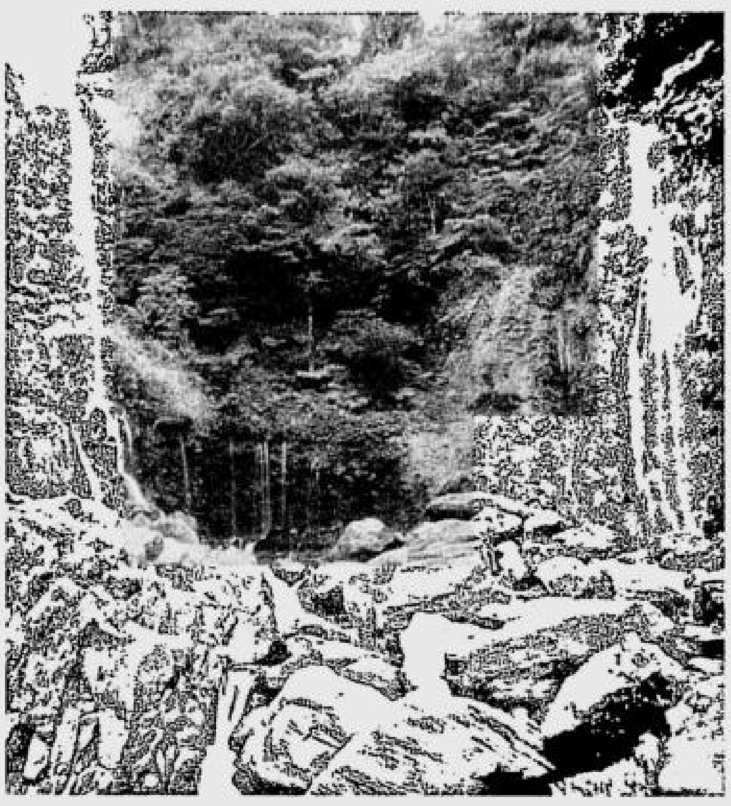
Philippines Joins WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY Celebration

Safeguarding water resource marks this year's focus



The Philippines joins the world in the 31st observance of World Environment Day today (June 5) with fresh hope of having environmental problems addressed with renewed vigor and a deep sense of urgency.

Thirty-one years ago, the United Nations declared June 5 as the World Environment Day, urging its member-countries to undertake activities reaffirming their concern for the preservation and enhancement of the environment.

This year's observance has for its theme *"Water – Two Billion People Are Dying for It."* is undoubtedly drawn to complement the declaration of 2003 as the International Year of Freshwater and the World Water Day which is celebrated every year in March.

Environment and Natural Resources Secretary Elisea G. Gozun said the focal point of this year's global activity is very significant for the safekeeping of the world's water as water is essential for life.

"The demand for water rises as global population escalates, making access to water one of the most inportant issues humanity faces today. We need to craft plans that will sustain our efforts to meet the growing demand for drinking water, for agriculture and industries, not only in Metro Manila, but for the whole country as well," Gozun added.

At the forefront in the country's war against water pollution and the protection of our watersheds is the DENR. The DENR is in the thick of things, from formulating policies and implementing water-related programs to monitoring wastewater from industries, and classification of the country's water bodies to ensure their proper management and utilization.

Records show that 2 billion people are affected by water shortages in over forty countries.: 1.1 billion do not have sufficient drinking water and 2.4 billion have no provision for sanitation (WHO/UNICEF, 2000). Moreover, in the past decades, 6,000 people, and mainly children under five, have died every day due to the water crisis.

All sectors in society should therefore join in the achievement of the millenium vision set by the United Nations, such as reduction by 2015 by one-half the proportion of people without access to hygienic sanitation facilities; the reduction by 2015 by one-half the proportion of people without sustainable access to adequate quantities of affordable and safe water; and the provision of water ,sanitation, and hygienic for all by 2025.

We call on the citizenry to use wisely and conserve the country's water resource, and at the same time, protect and rehabilitate our remaining forests.

MALACAÑAN PALACE
Manila

MESSAGE

As we celebrate World Environment Day 2003, we enjoin humanity to ponder and enhance our special relationship with water. Providing clean drinking water to billions of people poses a tremendous challenge to the community of nations. When we add the enormous amounts of freshwater required to grow food, we realize how urgently we need to use this precious resource wisely.

Through our centuries of history, we Filipinos have been essentially a water people. With our staple rice so thirsty for rain, we readily suffer the effects of El Niño-born drought. Fresh water aquaculture now supplies a large part of our fish. Waterborne diseases cause 80% of illnesses and deaths in developing countries. By bringing clean drinking water to countless communities, we prevent numerous life-threatening tropical diseases.

Despite the life-sustaining importance of water, people continue to dump waste in our rivers, lakes and seas, polluting our sources of drinking water. Millions still have no access to clean water. This is highlighted by this year's theme, "Water: Two Billion People are Dying For It!" On this occasion, therefore, I reiterate our pledge made with the nations at the World Summit for Sustainable Development in Johannesberg last September: by 2015, we will halve the number of Filipinos with no access to clean water ahd sanitation.

Water is indispensable to our survival and economic growth. The Philippine government continually promotes and undertakes water conservation and the protection of ecosystems. We call on our like-minded partners in the private sector and civil society to join us in mounting and sustaining a systematic and integrated campaign against the contamination of our fresh water. In the face of a dwindling resource which must be shared among an ever-growing number and variety of users, our partnership is key to our efforts toward sustainable development.

GMArroyo
GLORIA MACAPAGAL ARROYO

MANILA BAY:

Other than being regarded as the international gateway to the Philippines, Manila Bay is also adjudged a natural endowment - a source of food, employment, income, transportation, recreation, beauty, culture and history.

But owing primarily to pollution coming from all sorts of land-based and sea-based activities, compounded by overfishing and its conflicting use by various sectors, Manila Bay is now in a state of rapid deterioration.

To improve the ecological situation and promote a long-term sustainable development of the bay area, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) through its Manila Bay Environmental Management Project (MBEMP), is pursuing a coastal strategy that provides a comprehensive environmental management framework.

The coastal strategy for Manila Bay has became the statement of hope by and for the people to whom this remarkable natural endowment is a source. The strategy is also a window to the future, giving multiple and diverse stakeholders a glimpse of a vision, and charting of a course for that idyllic prospect.

CMMO: Integrating coastal conservation efforts

Two thirds of the Philippines population depend on the rich source of coastal and marine products. However, marine resources are steadily declining in quality and quantity in an alarming rate.

The government through the Department of Environment and Natural Resources has continuously provided solutions in solving the problem and the latest of its creation is the Coastal and Marine Management Office.

Created under DENR Administrative Order No. 8, series of 2002, CMMO is tasked to integrate and synchronize all coastal and marine projects and concerns within the department and the whole country. Through CMMO, DENR's role as catalyst to effect positive changes is highlighted. This is done through empowerment of coastal and marine users, stakeholders and decision-makers to ensure a balance between coastal and marine conservation and responsible coastal development.

Since DENR started the management of the country's coastal resources nationwide, it has organized and or/strengthened 423 peoples organizations or core groups; extended technical assistance to 163 municipalities; implemented 100 livelihood projects benefiting 6,232 fisherfolk and coastal dwellers; established and rehabilitated 4,101 has. of mangrove areas, and declared 11 cites as protected areas with a total of 403,988 hectares.

FRESHWATER AND THE ENVIRONMENT ...IMPERATIVES FOR PROTECTION

The Philippines holds a diverse array of wetlands. The wetlands ecosystems include mangrove forests, coral reefs, rivers, and freshwater lakes and marshes, among others. The country's total land area of 30 million hectares are dotted with about 211 freshwater lakes, two large marshes and a network of around 421 river basin or watersheds. Watershed means the region which drains all the rain water that falls onto it into one river system (DENR 1996). Of these, 18 are considered major river basins. Watersheds are important to the conservation of biodiversity; they are also clearly the determinants of sufficient freshwater supply for the country

Watersheds and other freshwater wetlands are currently tapped as vital sources of water supply for domestic, irrigation, and industrial purposes, including hydroelectric and hydropower generation. Likewise, watersheds provide the socio-economic base for forest dependent communities, help maintain ecological balance, minimize occurrence of floods and droughts, as well as climate change mitigation. In fact, wetlands are adjudged to be the "kidneys of the landscapes" by their abilities to store and purify water. However, watersheds and other freshwater wetlands are now considered in critical state due to mismanagement and overexploitation by growing population.

As population continues to rise and corresponding demand for water escalates, provision of sufficient and clean water supply remains crucial. This fact is highlighted in this year's celebration of the United Nations declared International Year of the Freshwater (IYF). While the present water supply remains sufficient for the coming years, there will be water shortages in some parts of the country, particularly in the highly urbanized cities like Metro Manila and Metro Cebu.

The DENR has always advocated protection of watersheds and the wetland areas. The restoration and conservation of the headwaters and wetlands ecosystems form the basis of Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) approach in the DENR. While at the moment, DENR plans and programs are anchored on the watershed as a basic planning unit, there are already initiatives leading to the larger river basin approach.

As we pay homage to the environment this month, it is important to take stock of the needs of the environment for it to continue providing mankind with the full stream of natural goods and environmental services, most especially the precious but finite freshwater resource.

Environment should be considered a key player and stakeholder in any conservation effort.

"As we pay homage to the environment this month, it is important to take stock of the needs of the environment for it to continue providing mankind with the full stream of natural goods and environmental services, most especially the precious but finite freshwater resource."

Mangrove Tree Planting for World Environment Day

Some 13,500 mangrove propagules will be simultaneously planted along the Coastal Road and Parañaque River Bank, Pilar, Bataan; and Naic, Cavite as representatives from DENR, local government units (LGUs) and non-government organizations participate in a mangrove tree planting activity for this year's observance of World Environment Day.

Participants from National Youth Commission, students from the Far Eastern University and University of Sto Tomas, Philippine Estate Authority and local government officials from Bataan and Cavite will also take part in the activity.

PEMSEA: Protecting the seas through partnership

Various organizations around the world help governments in the protection and conservationof environment and sustainable management of natural resources by way of sharing their knowledge and experiences and monetary aids in terms of programs and projects.

One of these countless programs funded by international agencies is the Partnerships in Environmental Management for the Seas of East Asia (PEMSEA). This program aims to protect the seas' life support systems and enable the sustainable use and management of coastal and marine resources through inter-governmental, interagency and inter-sectoral partnerships for an improved quality of life.

The tasks of PEMSEA are: develop a functional framework to streamline national, regional and international environmental management efforts in the East Asia called the Sustainable Development Strategy for the Seas of East Asia; forge a multi-stakeholder partnerships at the local level with the implementation of integrated coastal management programs, including the undertaking of inter-governmental, inter-agency and inter-sectoral collaborative activities focused on shared river basins, watersheds, coastal waters, subregional sea areas and pollution hot spots; and strengthening the capacity of both national and local governments by involving them in the development and implementation of regional, national and local environmental and natural resource management programs.

PEMSEA is funded by the Global Environmental Facility and implemented by the United Nations Development Programme, and executed by the International Maritime Organization. The Philippine Government, through the Department of Environment and Natural Resources hosts the PEMSEA regional office.

Department of Environment and Natural Resources

INQUIRER Southern Luzon

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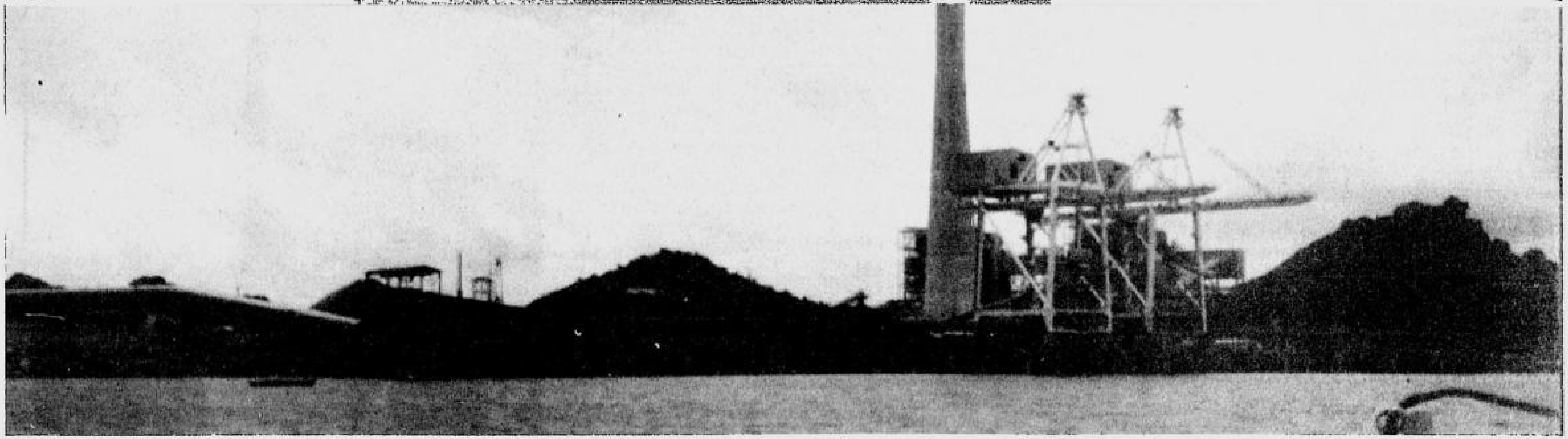


THE 735-megawatt plant of Mirant Pagbilao Corp., one of the country's top independent power producers, embarks on an environmental cause to enrich ecological diversity. DELFIN T. MALLARI JR

Power firm builds marine sanctuary

By Delfin T. Mallari Jr.
Pagbilao, Quezon

STRADDLING along the coast of the Isla Grande in Barangay Ibabang Polo in Pagbilao, Quezon, about 150 km south of Metro Manila, and facing the scenic Pagbilao Bay is the 735-megawatt coal-fired plant of Mirant Pagbilao Corp., one of the country's independent power producers.

More popularly known as the Pagbilao power plant, the vast and heavily secured compound is in the middle of a once-dreary island inhabited mostly by part-time tillers and fishermen who had contributed to the sorry state of the bay through illegal fishing.

The company built 15-km and 8-km access roads and a concrete bridge that now connects the once-isolated village to the poblacion.

Mirant Pagbilao is a subsidiary of Mirant Philippines Corp., a wholly owned subsidiary of the US-based Mirant. It is considered the largest private producer of electricity in the country, generating a total of more than 2,000 MW nationwide.

Sanctuary

The issue of environmental destruction always hounds the management of any coal-fired power plant. But Mirant officials claim that the preservation and protection of the environment has ever since been their priority.

"Our paramount environmental objective is to be a good steward of the environment and to conduct our business in a manner contributing to sustainable development in the communities that we serve, ensuring that we meet the needs of the present generation without compromising the quality of life of the future generation," said the company brochure.

Mirant boasts of passing the ISO 14001 certification audit conducted by the Geneva-based Societe Generale de Surveillance Group for its environmental management system.

"The SGS audit is an assurance that the plant does not only meet but even exceeds the specified standards provided under Philippine laws and international standards, such as that of the World Bank," said Greggy Romualdez, Mirant manager for external affairs.

To rehabilitate the sorry condition of the Pagbilao Bay, Mirant initiated the establishment of a 10-hectare marine sanctuary in order to preserve and protect the aquatic resources and further enrich the ecological diversity of the bay.

The calm waters in the sanctuary blend well with the panorama of picnickers frolicking near the rows of white-sand beach resorts at the right side of the plant's premises.

Recently, Mirant entered into an agreement with the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, in cooperation with the private sector, to provide close to P30 million as initial fund to rehabilitate a total of 150 hectares of mangrove fields and 150 hectares of upland forests.

Carbon sink

The tie-up has been dubbed the "Carbon Sink Initiative." It is named such, Romualdez explained, because forests and mangroves serve to absorb carbon dioxide from the atmosphere.

"The storing of carbon in forests is a cost-effective and environmentally sensitive solution to the ever-worsening climate-change problem," he said.

He said carbon sink drained carbon dioxide from the atmosphere and held it for a period in a form that did not contribute to global warming.

"This project is not solely an effort to preserve and protect the environment but to improve the quality of life as well," he said.

The central goal is the rehabilitation of Quezon's mangroves and watershed areas. The program has three components: reforestation of 150 hectares of watershed, rehabilitation of 150 hectares of mangrove forest, and the establishment of an "eco-destination area" through the development of the DENR mangrove experimental forest.

Mangrove loss

The mangrove forest, spanning Pagbilao and Padre Burgos towns, is considered the second most bio-diverse in the world.

Hosting 47 different mangrove species, the area attracts 4,000 visitors yearly, a number of whom are students from different parts of the world.

Romualdez lamented that the indiscriminate cutting of mangrove trees by residents for their livelihood has threatened to create an imbalance in the ecosystem. Known locally as "bakawan," mangrove trees are valued for their suitability as firewood as they are known to burn much longer than ordinary wood.

The mangrove population has dwindled over time. Records show that Quezon province had 14,940 hectares of mangrove area in 1969, but this declined to 923 hectares in 1991. This means that the legitimate fishermen are deprived of about 175,212.5 tons of fish and other species each year.

Mangrove provides food and shelter to various marine lives.

The Philippine Fisheries Code of 1998 called for the establishment of fishery refuge and sanctuaries in at least 15 percent of the total coastal area in each municipality.

When this writer visited the "eco-destination area" in Barangay Palsabangon, several buildings have already been put up to serve as bunkhouses and educational facilities for researchers. A display area of indigenous mangroves species was being completed.

A stroll along the 700-meter concrete walkway inside the vast mangrove forest could be one amazing experience for any serious student of the environment.

When asked if the company's thrust on environmental welfare was a tacit admission that the power plant's operation has been harmful to its surroundings, Romualdez said: "It's not an admission of guilt but just (sic) to give focus on Mirant's thrust on environmental stewardship. Taking care of the environment is just as important as doing good business in the country."

Mirant Philippines Corp. was the country's most profitable company last year, netting P11.6 billion. Mirant Pagbilao Corp. was No. 2 with P7.8 billion, while Mirant Sual Corp., which runs a power plant in Pangasinan, ranked third with P6.7 billion, data from the Securities and Exchange Commission showed.

Mirant's Pagbilao and Sual generation plants are the largest independent power producers in the country. Their combined generations feed electricity to the Luzon grid, serving the energy needs of more than 40 million people.

Issues

Since the locality has become known as the "power capital of Southern Tagalog," lots have changed, not only in the community of old inhabitants and its neighboring areas but also in the natural environment surrounding the power station.

Plant operators and environmentalists have tangled in the past over the health and environmental effects of coal to generate power. The fear and skepticism evolved mainly from the emission of toxic chemicals that pollute the environment.

Last year, residents of Sitio Kalantog, Barangay Silangang Malicboy complained of unexplained high mortality of crustaceans in several fishponds in the area. The death of prawns, crabs and shrimps has been blamed on the operation of the coal-fired power plant.

But an investigation conducted by the Pagbilao Multi-Partite Monitoring Team absolved the plant of any responsibility, declaring that the unfortunate incident was not connected with its operations.

The Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources-Freshwater Fisheries Research Station based in Los Baños, Laguna, after conducting another investigation, reported that the high concentration of carbon dioxide in the water was the source of stress of the stocks.

And if the carbon dioxide level remained constant or if it increased continuously, it would further lead to stock mortality.

"The plant's operation has nothing to do with the fish kills," Romualdez said.

Another lingering issue is the report that the company once dumped a shipload of rejected coal right into the bosom of the bay.

Romualdez could not help being amused. "It does not make any business sense for us to do that. Mirant will not resort to that. We're taking care of a ten-hectare marine sanctuary in the area. It really does not make sense."

"Assuming that the company rejected a shipload of coal, still we could not resort to just dumping the shipment in the sea, simply because that coal shipment is not the property of Mirant. It is still owned by the National Power Corp.," he explained.

Measures

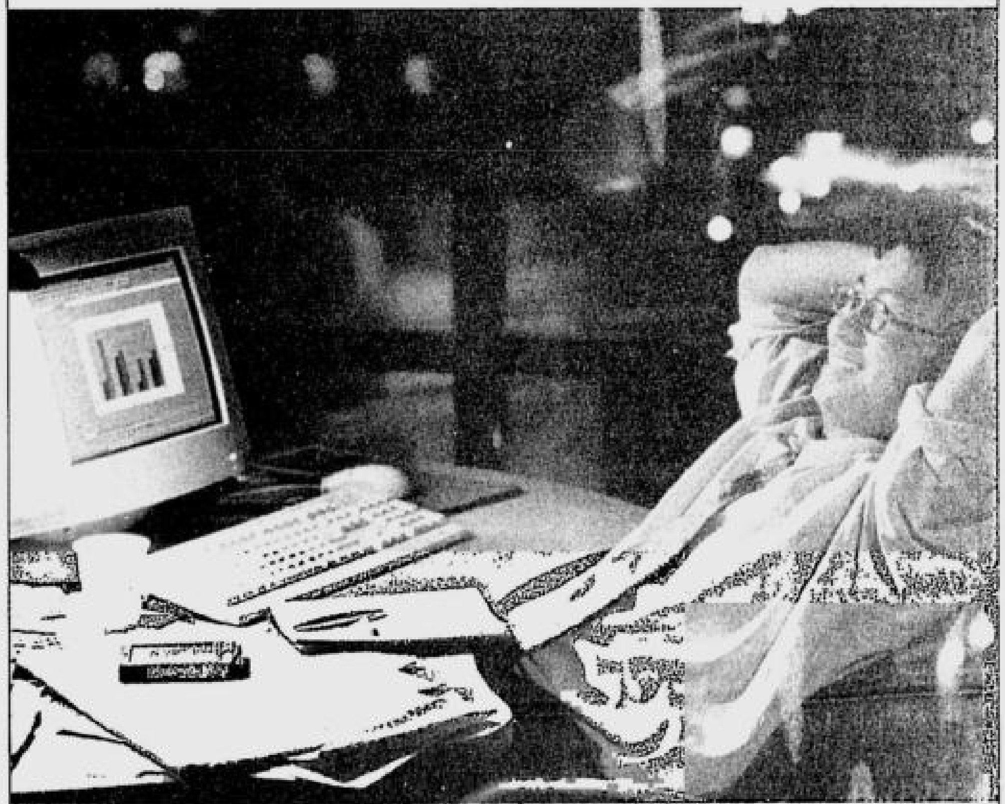
Under a contract, Romualdez pointed out that Mirant "has the option to return the coal if it will not conform with our requirements."

The plant uses bituminous, low sulfur and low ash content coal, which is sourced by the Napocor from Indonesia.

To mitigate all possible environmental risk, the company has installed advance water spray system, electrostatic precipitators, dust collectors, air-monitoring stations, ash lagoons, sedimentation basin and wastewater treatment plant.

"Their performance is all highly efficient," Romualdez boasted.

Sixty to 65 metric tons of coal used to be delivered to the plant three times a month, but the number has been reduced to a single delivery due to the low energy dispatch required by Napocor.



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‘Bush, Sin want GMA to run’

From page A1

source, Bush urged Ms Macapagal at the close of her recent official state visit to the United States to reconsider her announcement on Dec. 30 last year that she would not seek a full six-year term in the 2004 election.

“You know what [were] Bush’s parting words to her? ‘Madame President, women and politicians are entitled to change their minds,’” the source said.

Sin himself was reportedly convinced of the President’s victory in the event that she made the crucial decision.

“You run. You will win,” the source quoted the influential cardinal as telling Ms Macapagal when she and her husband Jose Miguel Arroyo paid him a courtesy call two days before the wedding last month of their youngest child Dato.

“The country needs you,” Sin reportedly also told Ms Macapagal.

The cardinal officiated at Dato’s wedding, and on the following day Ms Macapagal flew to the United States for what would turn out to be a triumphant state visit.

Asked how the President reacted to Sin’s advice, the source said: “GMA said, ‘Well, you have a prophetic voice.’”

Roh to invest

Per Gordon’s account to reporters in Seoul, Roh assured Ms Macapagal that he would invest in Philippine stocks on his retirement only if the latter were still President.

Roh, who assumed office in February, is serving a five-year term until 2008. If Ms Macapagal is elected in 2004, she will remain President until 2010.

The source who disclosed the endorsements of Sin and Bush corroborated Gordon’s account and even elaborated on it. He said Roh told him that Ms Macapagal should run in 2004 for the sake of the country.

“Why don’t you tell her?” the source recalled telling Roh.

Roh did, and Ms Macapagal “just laughed,” according to the source.

In a talk with reporters later Tuesday night at the Shilla Hotel where the official delegation was billeted, the President expectedly refused to discuss her political plans.

“You want to abort [this media conference],” Ms Macapagal said jokingly.

She confirmed that Roh planned to invest in Philippine stocks on his retirement—“He said he’s going to invest”—but stopped there.

Asked if Roh’s plans were premised on her staying in Malacanang, Ms Macapagal bowed her head and smiled.

Asked again if Roh’s statement would help convince her to run, she dropped her standard line: “Let’s not talk politics.”

The President and her husband were seated beside each other during the media conference. At one point, Arroyo affectionately picked out either a strand of hair or a piece of lint from his wife’s right cheek.

Selection process

In Manila, Aquino and Aurora Rep. Bella Angara-Castillo said the LDP was preparing to set in motion its selection process for the 2004 election.

They said party president Sen. Edgardo Angara had asked that they schedule a meeting of LDP lawmakers between June 15 and 30.

Aquino said LDP lawmakers met Tuesday night for a social gathering in view of Congress’ adjournment beginning on Friday.

Castillo said Angara, her brother, was not present at the meeting because he had to leave Tuesday night for the United States to attend his son’s graduation at Harvard University.

Among those present at the LDP gathering were Senators Tessie Aquino-Oreta and Panfilo Lacson and Representatives Gilbert Remulla, Rolex Suplico, Hussin Amin, Celso Lobregat and Constantino Jaraula.

Aquino said LDP lawmakers were able to discuss various proposals as part of the selection process.

“The preference of many of us was to consider partymates first before investigating other possible opposition candidates,” he said in an interview.

Remulla said it was generally agreed that the party should select its standard-bearer soon because the Commission on Elections had advanced to December the deadline for the filing of candidacies.

Earlier, some LDP congressmen expressed disagreement over Angara’s preference for businessman Eduardo “Danding” Cojuangco as the presidential candidate of the opposition.

These congressmen want Lacson, an LDP member, and have gone to the extent of naming him opposition standard-bearer.

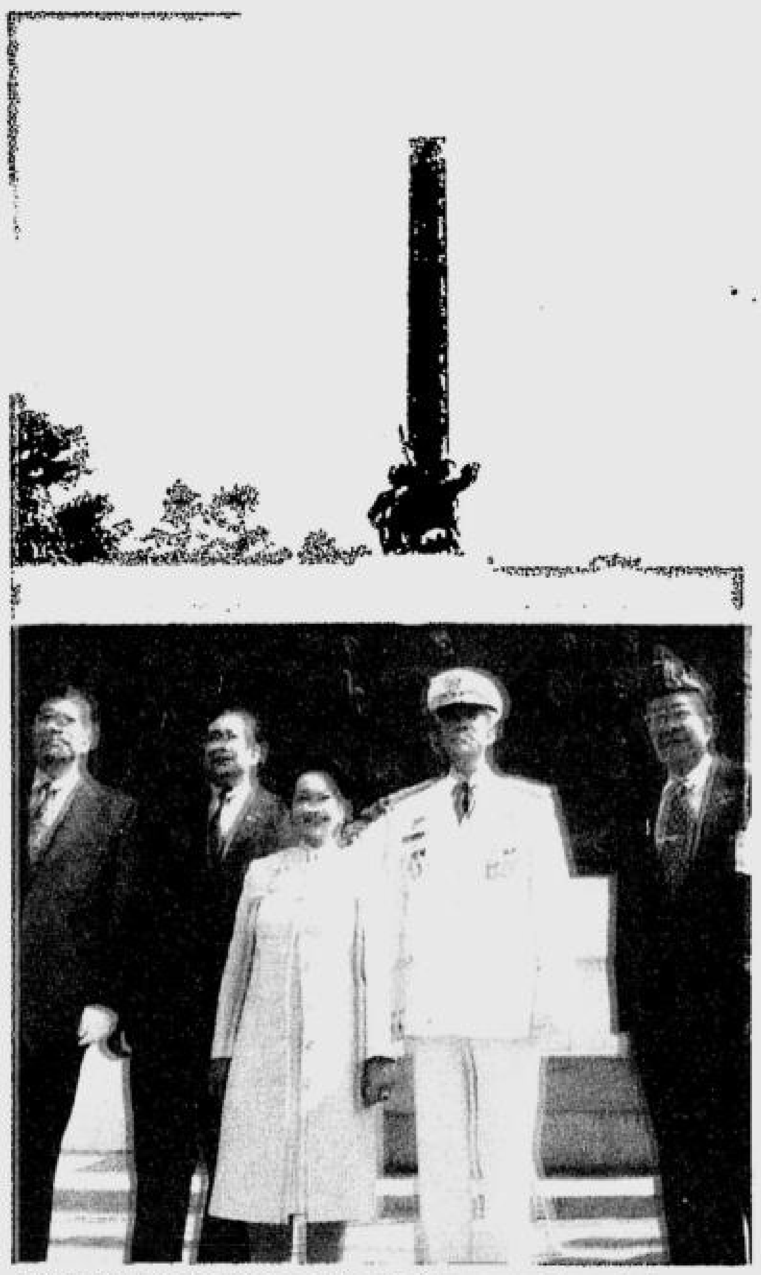
Reconsider, 60 solons ask GMA

DEPUTY Speaker Raul Gonzalez yesterday said he had so far gathered the signatures of 60 congressmen endorsing his letter to President Macapagal-Arroyo asking her to reconsider her decision not to run in 2004.

Gonzalez is aiming for 100 signatures, to help convince the President.

The 60 congressmen who signed the letter are from different parties, and include some members of the ruling Lakas who earlier expressed support for the proclamation of Eduardo “Danding” Cojuangco as opposition standard-bearer, Gonzalez said.

Christine O. Avendaño



MEMORIAL to the Filipino soldier at Koyang-gun Gyonggi-do, outside Seoul, is visited by President Macapagal and Mr. Mike Arroyo.

MALACAÑANG PHOTO

US admiral arrives amid Sulu clashes

From page A1

After arriving in Zamboanga, Fargo was immediately whisked to a nearby military headquarters for closed-door meetings with Gen. Narciso Abaya, armed forces chief of staff, and Major Gen. Roy Kyamco, Southern Command chief.

Security was tight for the entire visit, with troops patrolling the area and MG-520 helicopter gunships flying overhead.

Fargo, on a three-day visit to the Philippines, discussed with the Philippine officials preparations for the Balikatan counterterror exercises set for later this year.

Redeployment to Sulu?

Philippine officials have said the Balikatan operations could include the deployment of US forces to Sulu, a traditional stronghold of the Abu Sayyaf, wanted for the murders and kidnappings of at least two Americans in recent years. The Abu Sayyaf has been tagged a terrorist organization by Washington.

“The security assistance training is designed to assist the Philippine military in developing a sustained, long term capability to defeat terrorism, which is a primary goal of the military relationship,” the US Embassy said.

An advance team of US Special Forces is already in Zamboanga for classroom training of local troops and assistance in civic projects. US soldiers deployed in Basilan for similar operations last year helped to neutralize one faction of the Abu Sayyaf, which led to the rescue of American hostage Gracia Burnham.

Karen Kelley, embassy spokesperson, said Fargo’s visit to the Philippines was not in anyway connected to what US Senators Chuck Hagel and Jack Reed said last week about the re-assessment of US military deployment in the Asia Pacific.

“He’s here primarily to attend the annual Mutual Defense Board Meeting between defense officials of our two countries. Relating his visit to the LA Times report of re-alignment of forces would be a bit of a stretch,” Kelley said in a phone interview.

TIGHT security attends the arrival of US Pacific Commander, Admiral Thomas Fargo, on Wednesday at the Edward Andrews Air Base in Zamboanga City.

AP

Kelley said Fargo was on a series of visits in Southeast Asia. He met with Malaysian officials in Kuala Lumpur before coming to the Philippines.

“There will also be discussions until Friday. He has scheduled meeting with Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes and Armed Forces Chief of Staff Narciso Abaya,” she said.

Fargo’s plane touched down at the Edwin Andrews Air Base in Zamboanga City at around 11 a.m. Fargo was met by Lt. Gen. Claudio Estanilla of the Philippine Air Force’s Third Tactical Wing Operations Command.

Major Randy Cephus, public affairs officer of the Joint Special Operations Task Force Philippines, said Fargo visited US servicemen in Camp Enrile in Barangay Malagutay. Fargo left for Manila at about 3:50 p.m.

Fargo’s visit came just days after President Macapagal-Arroyo returned from a state visit to Washington, where she obtained a pledge from US President George W. Bush for $356 million in military assistance.

Bush also promoted the Philippines to a full-fledged non-Nato ally, which would give Manila greater access to US military equipment and supplies.

Patikul clash

Reports reaching Camp Aguinaldo said the Patikul clash occurred at about 9:45 a.m. when elements of the 39th Marine company of the Marine Landing Battalion Landing Team 9 encountered the Abu Sayyaf group in Barangay Taglibi, Patikul.

The clash came two days after the military announced the capture of an Abu Sayyaf sub-commander said to be one of the planners of the attack on Ipil town in 1995.

The suspect, Kalaw Jaljalis, is the head of an Abu Sayyaf unit based in Basilan and is said to be directly under Khadaffy Janjalani, the Abu Sayyaf chief. Jaljalis, who carried a P500,000-bounty, was arrested in Barangay Litayon, Patikul.

Brig. Gen. Renato Miranda, commander of the Marines Forces-South, said soldiers were acting on information provided by Jaljalis that some 200 heavily armed bandits led by Radulan Sahiron and Janjalani were holed up in Mt. Bagsak.

Miranda said the bandits put up a heavy defense, prompting the military to use air and ground artillery assaults.

As of press time, two MG520 attack helicopters and two Huey choppers had been bombarding the bandits’ position with rocket fire.

Miranda said the military was also pounding “specific targets” in Mt. Bagsak with artillery fire.

“We don’t have the number of casualties on their side, but we are confident that we have inflicted greater damage against them,” he said.

GMA tackles Asia’s future in Tokyo

From page A1

that Asia must recognize—that it must be more responsible for its own economic and political security. And . . . the biggest economy in Asia is Japan,” she said.

Before flying to Tokyo, Ms Macapagal met with South Korean Prime Minister Goh Kun.

She also laid a wreath at the Korean war memorial for Filipino soldiers who fought on their side during the Korean war in the 1950s.

It was the President’s late father, then Rep. Diosdado Macapagal, who authored the bill authorizing the deployment of more than 7,000 soldiers to the Korean peninsula.

The President’s visit to Seoul yielded a total of $499 million in government-to-government and private-sector agreements, officials said.

In her talks with South Korean President Roh Moo-hyun, she pledged the Philippines’ lead role in Southeast Asia to help multilateral efforts to resolve the North Korean issue.

Mahathir

Ms Macapagal will brief Mahathir on recent developments in Mindanao when they meet today.

She said she would also reiterate to the Malaysian prime minister the Philippines’ request for help in putting on track the floundering peace process with the separatist Moro Islamic Liberation Front.

“I will apprise him of what is going on and continue to ask for his support, with which he has been very forthcoming,” she told reporters.

The two leaders do not agree on vital international issues, like the US-led war on Iraq and Islamic-inspired terrorism. But Ms Macapagal described Mahathir as an “important person in our peace process.”

The President also said she would continue to follow through on the Mindanao National Initiative (Mindanao Natin), which she earlier launched to foster development and resolve the economic and social roots of the conflict in Mindanao.

US’ complementary role

In Manila, the President’s spokesperson Ignacio Bunye yesterday said she was considering the offer of the United States to mediate in the government’s peace efforts with the MILF.

However, she wants Malaysia to continue to be the lead third-party facilitator, with the United States playing a “complementary” role, Bunye said.

He also said that the President would discuss the United States’ role in the negotiations with the MILF when she meets with Mahathir today, and that she would thank the Malaysian leader for helping forge peace with Moro rebels in Mindanao.

“The President will express the preference that Malaysia would play a key role, to be complemented if possible by the United States. In other words, Malaysia will remain the principal player as far as the third-party facilitation is concerned,” Bunye said.

US President George W. Bush made the offer to mediate in the government’s peace talks with the MILF during Ms Macapagal’s state visit to the United States last month.

She thanked Bush for the offer, but did not immediately accept it.

Asked if she had accepted the offer, Bunye replied: “The President has not rejected the offer. Anyway, I think the President even thanked [Bush] for his offer.”

“I believe, from the point of view of President Bush, the offer was clear that they are willing to come in if and when requested, and in the manner they will be requested to come in,” Bunye added. *With a report from Dona Z. Pazzibugan in Manila*

Pinoy drummers pound new beat on ‘K-hon’

From page A1

been developed by a pair of musicians in Manila. It mimics the sounds of a bass drum, a snare drum, bongos and congas—all for a fraction of the cost and bulk of a traditional set of drums.

“Our main goal is to make the box drum user-friendly, which can be played by anyone, like the acoustic guitar,” said Vic Mercado, a professional musician who met his partner, Marco Guzman, in 1997 when their bands played at the same concert.

A player sits on the box and leans down to pound its wooden surface. The center gives off a resonant thud like a bass drum, while the upper edge has the metallic crack of a snare drum.

Tap the sides and the sharp tones of bongos ring out.

The K-hon gets its name from the Filipino word for box—*kahon*—which comes from the Spanish *cajon*.

Mercado calls it a Third World musical instrument and he loves its versatility.

“It’s like you’re bringing your own stool. You can put your beer inside, your clothes. And you can play it while drinking. It’s all in one,” Mercado said.

Metal strings inside give the K-hon its characteristic sound and can be tuned to other instruments.

With many Filipino musicians unable to afford the P25,000 for a complete drum kit, the K-hon’s price tag of P2,500 has prompted a scramble for the unusual instrument.

About 150 have been sold and at least a dozen Manila bands—playing everything from pop to jazz to alternative rock—now use them in their sets.

Kick and bass

Visiting groups such as China Crisis, Lotus Eaters and Boyz to Men were so intrigued that they ordered several to take home.

Drummer Chavy Romawac said the cheap price did not mean poor quality.

“This instrument is a big help to us musicians,” he said. “The sound it produces is fuller than the conga, shakers or tambourines. With the K-hon, there is that kick and bass.”

Mercado and Guzman, both professional drummers, began to combine their love of percussion with a talent for carpentry after they saw a Spanish musician pounding on a box at a 2001 performance.

The two were intrigued by the sound and appearance of the cajon, a Latin American version of the instrument, and, after doing some research, decided to make their own.

Swept up by its initial success, they turned the box drum into a full-time venture this year.

It is still a cottage industry but the partners can make up to 200 a month. Depending on sales, they aim to step that up to 500.

The K-hon is available at music shops in Manila, through distributor Charybdis Inc. or via e-mail at khon_orders@yahoo.com.

Mercado and Guzman plan to start exporting the instrument to other Asian countries before the end of the year but do not expect to get rich.

“The money we get is just enough to make more K-hon drums. If I have a spare, I just give it away to a friend who wants one. If we wanted money, we could increase the price, but it’s not what we want,” said Mercado.

“It’s really a Third World musical instrument. But who knows? We might make it into the US and the UK.” *Reuters*

2 ships at fault; San Nicolas more so

From page A1

- He did not assume command of his boat when faced with imminent danger.
- His knowledge of radar systems was rudimentary.
- He allowed his chief mate to change course three times even when the chief mate was not sure what was ahead of them. The Board saw these as "erratic maneuvers."
- Like the Super Ferry captain, he did not reverse his boat's propulsion.
- He did not sound his horn when his boat changed direction three times.

Rafanan of Super Ferry 12:

- He did not change course earlier even when he saw the San Nicolas at 5 miles away on the radar.
- He assumed that a passing clearance of 0.5 mile was enough. Considering the weight and size of his ship, 0.5 mile is too close for comfort, according to Board members.
- He did not sound the horn of the ship when his vessel veered to the right. Honking is necessary to attract the attention of another vessel on a collision course.
- He did not make use of his VHF radio, given poor visibility and the nasty weather.
- He did not reverse the ship's propulsion when the two ships were about to collide.

Island or ship?

During the deliberations, Board members plotted the positions of the two ships based on the sketches and testimonies of at least eight officers and crew, the INQUIRER was told.

Board members used a projector and a computer to come up with a simulation of what had happened on that fateful day.

Ibañez and Fampula admitted at the hearings that at 2 miles away, they were not certain whether the object they had seen on radar was a ship or an island.

"What we knew for sure was that there was something ahead of us," Fampula told the Board.

Even so, Fampula veered his vessel to the right because "even if it were an island, we would still have to avoid it."

The San Nicolas did two more maneuvers before it collided with Super Ferry 12 at around 11 a.m., according to the Board.

Misgivings about Rafanan

Super Ferry 12 did only one maneuver, which was to veer to the right at less than a mile away even though it had seen the San Nicolas at 5 miles away.

Board members had disclosed their misgivings to the INQUIRER at various occasions during the hearings.

The Board members said Rafanan did too little to avoid the collision, being the captain of a bigger, more sophisticated ship. Super Ferry 12 weighs more than 15,000 tons.

They said a passing clearance of only half a mile was too close for comfort. Rafanan earlier testified that he had thought that the Super Ferry was going to get past San Nicolas at a clearance of 0.5 mile.

Survivors

Tamayo urged the victims to use the findings of the Board in case they file criminal or civil charges against either ship.

"The victims, should they file criminal cases, can make use of our findings as supplementary or corroborating evidence," he said.

No survivor was summoned to the hearings. A Coast Guard official told the INQUIRER that the Board should have used "independent testimonies" to corroborate whatever evidence was gathered.

The Board is set to submit its findings to Transportation Secretary Leandro Mendoza.

"We will also advise the Secretary to pursue criminal prosecution against those at fault," Tamayo said.

Mendoza has directed the Coast Guard and the Maritime Industry Authority (Marina) to conduct an "emergency readiness evaluation" of all inter-island vessels and their crew to prevent the occurrence of sea tragedies.

Mendoza said all vessels being operated by the San Nicolas' owner would have to go through stringent inspections so that their seaworthiness could be determined. Their crew members would also be tested for their competence. *With a report from Abigail L. Ho*

Board of Marine Inquiry 'toothless'

By Luige del Puerto

AS THE Board of Marine Inquiry wrapped up its investigation of the May 25 collision in Manila Bay that killed at least 39 people, probers were again reminded that the inquiry was essentially "toothless."

"This is just a recommendatory body. We can only recommend sanctions against ship owners, or recommend the cancellation of licenses of marine officers. We do not have the power to award damages," said Capt. Jovito Tamayo, director of Maritime Industry Authority (Marina), and vice-chair of BMI.

Administrative sanctions

Created by Republic Act 5173, the BMI can only recommend administrative sanctions. It has no punitive power, but its findings can be used in criminal courts.

A quick review of major maritime disasters showed that the sanctions the Board had recommended against erring mariners could be considered "light," given the scores of people who died in the accidents.

As for the ship owners, most of them have escaped stiffer penalties.

Doña Paz

In the case of the collision between MV Doña Paz and MT Vector, which killed more than 4,000 people in 1987, the BMI found that human error on the part of MT Vector had caused the disaster.

But the Board did not recommend sanctions against the two survivors of the ship because they were not the officers on duty at the time of the collision.

The other 11 officers of MT Vector and all 59 officers and crew of MV Doña Paz were killed in what is known as the world's greatest peacetime maritime disaster.

Because human error caused the disaster, no sanctions were recommended against owners of the ships.

In the case of the sinking of MV Doña Marilyn a year after, all the surviving officers and crew, as well as the operators of the ship, were exonerated,

"Force majeure" caused the accident, according to the Board. The sinking killed at least 250 people.

Kota Soria

In the case of the collision between MV Cebu City and Kota Soria in 1994, the latter was found to be at fault. At least 70 people were killed in the tragedy.

Kota Soria chief officer Patrick Baiyu was banned from travelling to the country on board any vessel as an officer. But Coast Guard authorities could not go after him because he did not get his license in the Philippines.

The Board also recommended the suspension of the license of the Filipino captain of Kota Soria, Paquito Miraflor, for only four years.

In the burning of MV Viva Antipolo in 1995 near the port of Lucena in Quezon, the Board only recommended that the ship owners be "reprimanded for not notifying" authorities about the repair and replacement of pipes and the "re-engining" of the ship.

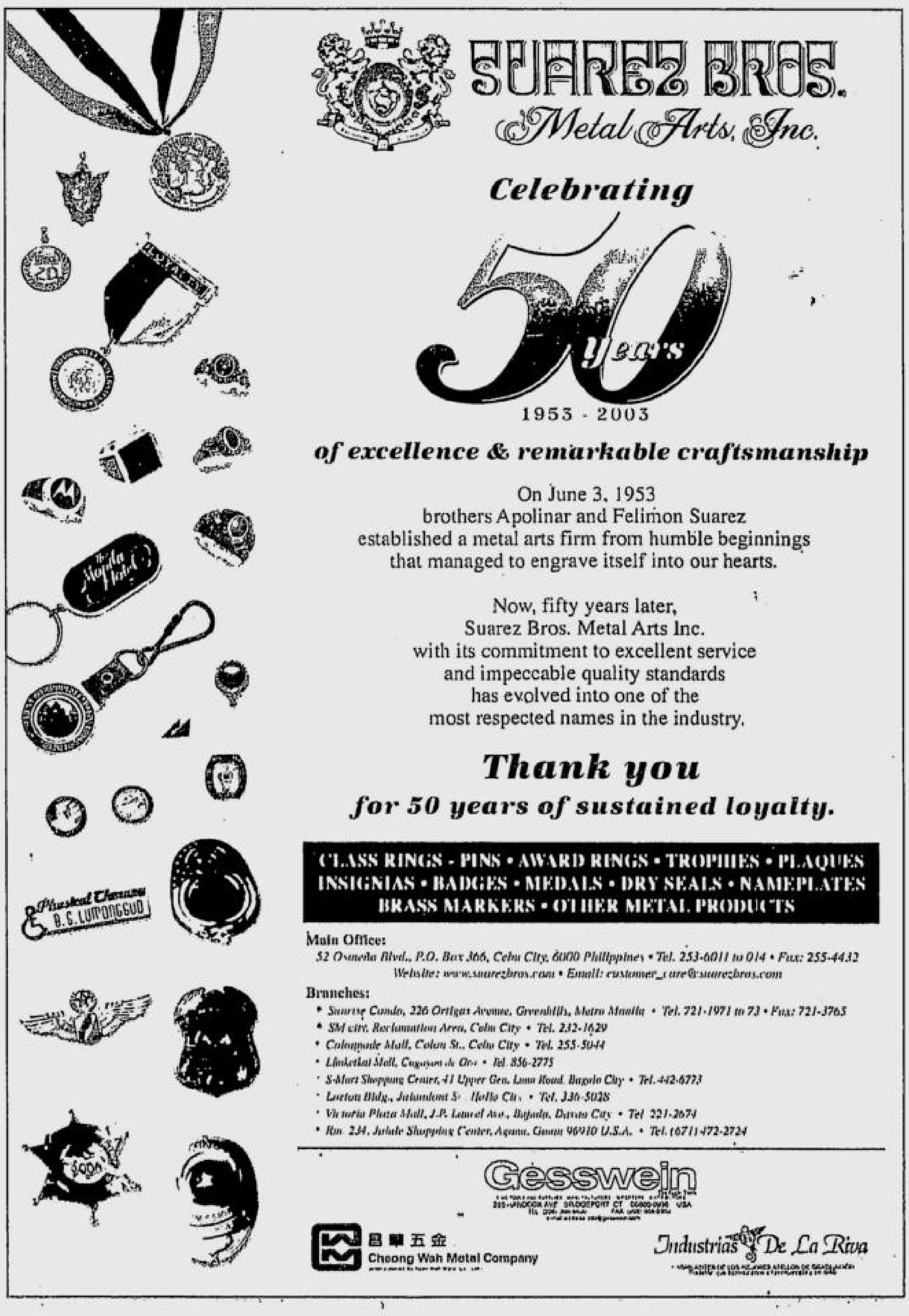
"A repetition of the same will be dealt more severely," the Board said. At least 60 people died in the fire. Dozens more are still missing.

Vice-Admiral Reuben Lista said an admiralty court or a special court should be created to try only marine accidents, like the one that happened on May 25 at the mouth of the Manila Bay.

"Just like any court, it should be given the power to penalize and award damages," he said.

Lawyer Rudy Villanueva said three regional trial courts (RTCs) could be converted into admiralty courts as the need arises.

"Sea accidents are rare. An admiralty court would do nothing in case there are no accidents. That would be expensive," he said.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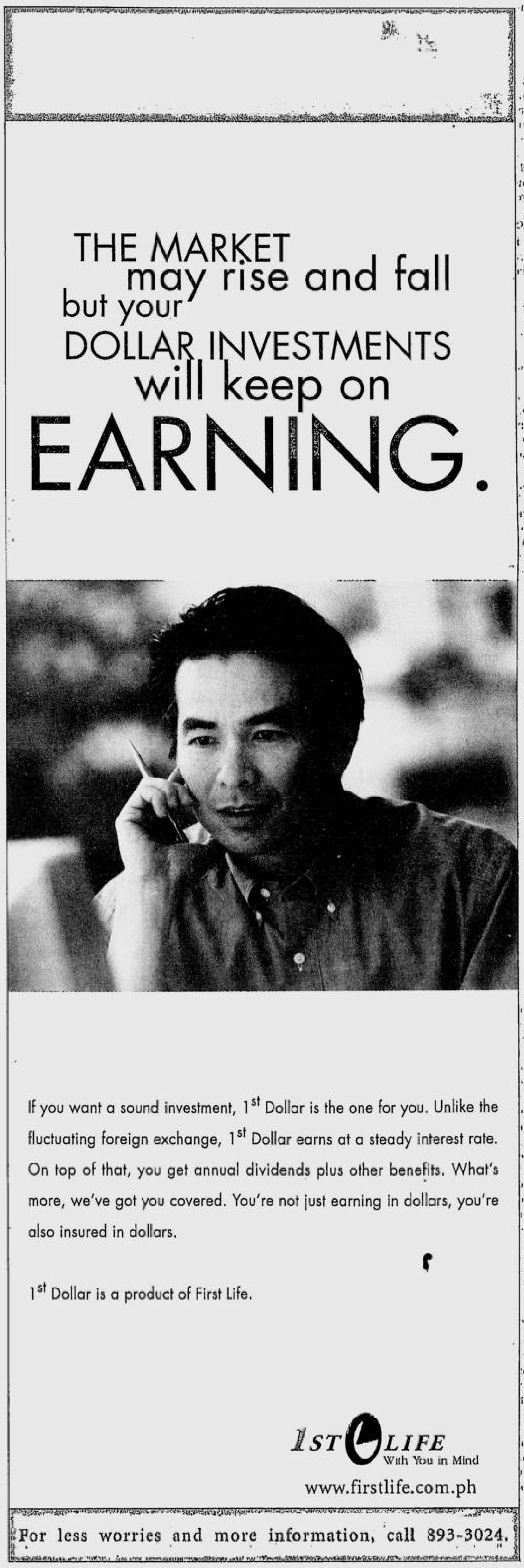
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Editor **Abelardo S. Ulanday**

Don't expect bits of body parts from your faucets

A BODY part apparently belonging to Randy Diaz (inset) is retrieved by a Coast Guard frogman. Above, workers from Manila Water Co. Inc. go down into one of the holes they drilled on the sealed pipeline along E. Rodriguez Avenue in Quezon City. JOAN BONDOC

Main pipeline where Randy's body found remains cut off, MWCI assures residents

By Alcuin Papa, Amy R. Remo and Agnes Donato

BITS and pieces of body parts of Randy Diaz will not likely come out of water taps in households in Metro Manila, according to Manila Water spokesperson Joel Lacsamana.

He said the pipeline in which Diaz's body was finally found yesterday afternoon had been taken out of commission shortly after Diaz fell into an aqueduct of the water system last May 17.

Philippine Coast Guard divers recovered Diaz's body at 4:30 p.m. yesterday in Cubao, Quezon City.

"I would like to stress that Mr. Diaz's remains were found within the mainline which we had already cut off from the rest of the water system," said Lacsamana. "So don't think that there would be body parts of Randy floating around."

He also assured Manila Water customers that the presence of Diaz's body in the pipeline for more than two weeks had not resulted in water contamination.

Construction worker Modesto Oreta first found pieces of human scalp and skin from an arm, and strands of hair from a hole dug by the recovery team at the corner of E. Rodriguez Avenue and Monte de Piedad Street in Cubao at about 12 noon yesterday.

The hole where the body parts were found was roughly midway through the 3.4-km-long Manila Water pipeline, which led to the San Juan reservoir where company officials had hoped Diaz's body would surface.

Another hole was cracked on the pipeline at the corner of Sct. Catolos Street and E. Rodriguez Avenue, about 100 meters away from the Monte de Piedad hole.

Philippine Coast Guard divers then swam for about 220 meters more and finally found Diaz's body at 4:30 p.m. yesterday.

This meant that Diaz's body had passed through Manila Water's two creek crossings and had drifted about two kilometers away from the ventilation chamber that he fell into on Bignay Street in Proj. 2.

Residents in the area where the body was found said that a foul smell had been emitting from the pipeline.

Workers of Manila Water have been cracking holes in the pipeline in their effort to recover Diaz's body.

The water firm has also been pumping water out of the holes in the pipelines to reduce pressure and ensure the divers' safety.

Recovery efforts were done slowly and methodically, taking the water firm more than two weeks to find the body, so that the divers did not have to swim long distances, Lacsamana said.

"We wanted to make sure the divers have enough air in their tanks. Current in the pipe was also very strong," he said.

Asked how much the recovery operations cost the water firm, Lacsamana said it could possibly run in the millions.

He said that Manila Water was studying its option of de-commissioning the pipe completely, adding that the incident was a wake-up call for the water firm. But he said the incident did not affect the viability of Manila Water.

The company's media relations manager Ranulfo Habaluyas said the body parts found were sent to the Philippine National Police Crime Laboratory for testing and to confirm if these belonged to Diaz.

Diaz, 19, was picking fruits at the backyard of his relatives' house when he fell into the ventilation chamber and drowned.

Manila Water officials had said that the property of Diaz's relatives had encroached on the water firm's right-of-way.

MOURNERS view the remains of Holmsen at the Sampaguita Memorial Chapel in San Juan. JOAN BONDOC

'Danny was too trusting of people'

By Marinel R. Cruz

RELATIVES of slàin musical director Danny Holmsen believe that he would be alive today had he not been too trusting of people.

"For the longest time, I've been telling him to check and double check the background of people he hires," lamented Rafael Dalit, cousin of the singer-composer who was found murdered along with a house companion inside their house in Quezon City last Monday.

Dalit and other relatives expressed belief that Holmsen and housemate Norman Abarte, 24, a tabloid writer, were killed by the houseboy whom the singer-composer hired four days earlier.

The police have identified the houseboy only as a certain "Jerry Bisaya."

The victim's kin suspect that Jerry led three or four accomplices into Holmsen's apartment on Harvard Street, Cubao, to help stage a robbery but they were discovered.

"What we don't understand is why they had to kill him," said Dalit, who spoke to the INQUIRER at Holmsen's wake at the Sampaguita Pictures chapel in San Juan.

Holmsen, 72, was born to a Filipina mother and a Swiss father. He had two half-siblings who are now based in the United States.

His interment has been tentatively set for June 8 at the Loyola Memorial Park in Marikina City. He will be buried alongside his mother Luisa Dalit.

His last works were the religious albums "King of Kings" and "Ave Maria-Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe," which were released by Aquarius Records in 2001.

Demolition of shanties along esteros will go on

By Leila B. Salaverria

THE RAINS will not stop the demolition of informal settlers' homes in Metro Manila. In fact, the rains might even hasten their removal.

Shanties along river banks and waterways were seen as one of the causes of flooding by the Metro Manila Development Authority after responsibility for flood control in the metropolis had been transferred to the agency.

MMDA Chair Bayani Fernando said shanties near waterways had been torn down last week despite tropical storm Chedeng's fury in order to prevent flooding.

More shanties would be demolished in order to ensure that banks of waterways remain clear of obstructions, he added.

Fernando said frail shanties have a good chance of being swept away by rushing water currents. When this happens, the shanties could get stuck and block the water flow.

Citing the case of houses of illegal settlers near the San Juan River, Fernando said that if these houses were not removed, they could be swept away by strong water currents and block the MWSS water pipe in the river, causing flooding.

"When a shanty blocks the flow of the current, then the waters will rise and there will be flooding in the city," he said.

The MMDA chair added that he would ask the MWSS to decommission the pipeline in the San Juan River so that it would no longer be an obstruction on the waterway.

Bullets, rocks fly during VRB anti-piracy raid in Quiapo

By Luige del Puerto

AT LEAST seven people were hurt when shots were fired and rocks were thrown during a raid on stalls allegedly selling pirated VCD and DVD in Quiapo, Manila.

Videogram Regulatory Board chair Ramon Revilla Jr. said about 100 VRB agents and policemen swooped down on the Muslim side of Elizondo Street at around 11:45 a.m. to confiscate fake video discs.

Stall owners and their helpers, however, resisted with some hurling stones at the raiding team.

Lawmen responded by firing shots in the air.

"They knew that what they were doing was illegal. They should not have [attacked] us. *Sila ang nambato* (They threw rocks at us)," Revilla said.

He said two of his men and a policeman were hit in the head with rocks.

But Datu Amirol Ambiong, head of the Metro Manila Muslim's Peace and Coordinating Council, said members of the raiding team were too harsh.

"They didn't know whether the wares were really illegal or not," he told the INQUIRER over the phone.

Ambiong said at least two vendors were "manhandled" by lawmen. "They were only trying to protect themselves," he said.

Some P1.5 to P2 million worth of VCD and DVDs were seized during the operation, Revilla said.

"We could have confiscated more, but they were quick to close their stalls,." he said.

The VRB head told the INQUIRER that the raid was part of a plan to rid Metro Manila of pirated CDs.

"Next time we will bring more men. When you raid a place like Quiapo, you have to be prepared. They fight back. We might get killed," he said.

Senate panel threatens to cut Fernando's 'unbridled' powers

By Michael Lim Ubac

ONLY GOD can make a tree, but the Senate could make a move to clip the powers of a government official who has been cutting down trees.

Moves to curtail the control of Metro Manila Development Authority Chair Bayani Fernando over the metropolis have gained ground yesterday in the Senate after it was found out that the agency had unbridled powers to remove traffic obstructions, including demolishing squatter shanties and cutting down trees.

Faculty representatives from the University of the Philippines, Miriam College and Ateneo De Manila University told the Senate Committee on Environment and Natural Resources that Fernando had become a "man so powerful" that he could push through with his directives even without appropriate consultations from affected sectors.

"How could the presidents of UP, Ateneo and Miriam all be wrong, and only (Fernando) right?" asked a UP faculty member.

The mentors told Sen. Robert Jaworski, who chairs the committee, that UP President Francisco Nemenzo, Ateneo President Bienvenido Nebres and Miriam President Patricia Licuanan had submitted separate position papers to oppose the cutting of trees and removal of traffic islands on Katipunan Avenue in Quezon City, where the three academic institutions were located.

Jaworski himself was shocked to learn that the agency had not secured necessary permits in its traffic clearing operations, particularly the cutting of trees.

When he demanded for an answer, Corazon Davis of the Department of the Environment and Natural Resources-National Capital Region, admitted that the MMDA was not required to secure an Environmental Clearance Certificate in its road-widening projects. She said that under Presidential Decree 953, the MMDA could issue its own permit to carry out its road-clearing operations.

Jaworski then scolded MMDA officials sent by Fernando—MMDA General Manager Robert Nacianceno and MMDA Assistant GM Rogelio Uranza—because of the MMDA's strong-arm tactics in carrying out clearing operations.

He told the MMDA officials to address the traffic problem in the metropolis "in its complexities," taking into account the impact on poor vendors, residents, schools and the environment, and taking care not to violate the law and the people's rights.

He also warned them against cutting tress, saying, "Be careful in cutting trees … because only God can make a tree."

Liquor ban imposed in parts of Malabon

City officials still stumped over origin of fake gin that had killed 8 men

By Tina Santos

MALABON local officials have imposed a ban on the sale of liquor in parts of the city where eight men have reported to have died from drinking fake gin.

But Mayor Amado Vicencio said that the city council must first enact an ordinance before they can enforce the ban on the sale of liquor in large parts of Malabon.

According to Vicencio, a barangay has already implemented a liquor ban in its area.

Eduardo Nolasco, barangay Potrero chair, told the INQUIRER in a phone interview that they were forced to ban the sale of all kinds of liquor, particularly a popular brand of gin, after seven men were poisoned in his area on May 26.

Of the seven men, he said, three had already died while another had gone blind.

Nolasco said that two men are still in critical condition, while the seventh has received a clean bill of health from attending doctors.

On May 18, five persons died after downing contaminated gin during a drinking session near the common boundary of Malabon and Caloocan.

Vicencio said that Nolasco's move to impose a liquor ban was "understandable."

But Vicencio emphasized that the measure should only be carried out in affected areas and not in the entire city.

Nolasco said that they deemed the move necessary while the investigation is going on and they are still waiting for the results of the Bureau of Food and Drugs' laboratory tests, which is conducting the analysis.

He said they were also monitoring sari-sari stores in the area which could help them trace the origin of the fake or adulterated alcoholic drink.

He added that that they have also placed under surveillance a factory suspected of manufacturing fake liquor.

Nolasco refused to name the factory.

The barangay chair said other barangay leaders have expressed their desire to adopt the same measure.

Cost of fixing Metro roads to reach P11M

By Leila B. Salaverria

TROPICAL storm "Chedeng" is gone and its floods have receded but it left behind many pothole-riddled roads and a huge repair bill.

Metro Manila Development Authority Chair Bayani Fernando has disclosed that of the 12 million square meters of roads in the metropolis, 30,000 square meters were damaged by the almost week-long rain last week.

Repairs, he said, would cost at least P11 million.

"We now have 10 teams of DPWH (Department of Public Works and Highways) personnel doing the patching. It started since last week," Fernando told reporters.

Fernando, however, said that rains that came after "Chedeng" were hampering repair work because asphalt could not be laid over wet roads.

Because of this, they were contemplating the use of the "cold asphalt" for critical roads needing immediate rehabilitation.

"But it costs four times more (than regular asphalt) and there is no guarantee that it will last that long," he said.

Among the areas undergoing repair are the Pasay-Taft, Estrella and Ortigas areas along Edsa and the underpasses in Cubao, where accidents caused by vehicles braking to avoid potholes have been reported, said Traffic Operation Center Director Angelito Vergel de Dios.

Meanwhile, the MMDA chair said repairs on main thoroughfares like Edsa, which is scheduled to be laid over with eight inches of asphalt, would be done by sections because these could not be totally closed to traffic.

In Manila, City Engineer Armand Andres said that apart from road repair, work crews in the city had resumed cleaning drainage lines in preparation for more rain. *With a report from Margaux Ortiz*

RUSH, RUSH, RUSH. Road repair crews work double time along Buendia Avenue in Pasay City to fill in potholes left behind by week-long rains and floods brought by tropical storm Chedeng. The scene is repeated all over Metro Manila, where road repair costs are estimated at P11 million. ERIK ARAZAS

LATE SPORTS

Tigers stretch win run over Kings to 7

By June Navarro

FOR THE past three days, the Coca-Cola Tigers haven't had a good practice due to a slippery floor.

Well, that never proved to be a hindrance last night as the defending champion Tigers skinned the Barangay Ginebra Kings, 86-79, at the start of the Samsung-PBA All Filipino Cup quarterfinals at the Araneta Coliseum.

The Tigers, who overwhelmed the Gin Kings for the fourth straight time since the 2002 season, thus moved a game away from securing a semifinal slot in the back-to-scratch quarterfinal phase.

Teams in the quarterfinals need at least two victories to grab one of the two top seats in their division before engaging in a crossover semifinals with the top performers of the other group.

"We had a hard time practicing prior to the game. The inclement weather made the floor slippery because of the moist," said Tigers coach Chot Reyes.

Reyes, who had beaten the Gin Kings for the seventh straight time since the 2000 Governors Cup, said all the Tigers' practice venues—Moro Lorenzo Gym, Araneta Coliseum and the Reyes Gym—had the same soapy feeling while playing on the court.

Talk N Text exploited the absence of Davonn Harp and Jimwell Torion to deal Batang Red Bull its worst lost of the season, 110-84, in the second game.

Scores:

COCA-COLA 86—Carlaso 21, Morano 18, Hatfield 17, Juinio 12, Reavis 6, Hugnatan 5, Wainwright 5, Avenido 2, Abuda 0, Antonio 0.

GINEBRA 79—Menk 23, Caguioa 18, Adducul 10, Calpito 10, Salvacion 8, David 6, Dimaunahan 2, Ballesteros 2, Malabanan 0, Tolomia 0.

Quarters: 24-22, 46-44, 67-68, 86-79.

DILG forms task forces to oversee drug testing

By Leila Salaverria

INTERIOR and Local Government Secretary Joey Lina yesterday said he would form five task forces to meet with representatives of different sectors that would have to undergo drug testing as mandated by the law.

Lina, who also chairs the Dangerous Drugs Board, said the task force members would try to get feedback about the drug testing guidelines from the five sectors—schools and parent-teachers associations as representatives of high school and college students, employees and officials from both private government offices, candidates for public office, law enforcers, and persons charged with a crime with a penalty of not less than six years and one day.

The five groups are among those mandated to take drug tests, random or mandatory, as specified in the Comprehensive Dangerous Drugs Act passed on July 4 last year. Its implementing rules and regulations were formulated on last Nov. 15 and are now being finalized.

"We want to consult the stakeholders about the implementing guidelines that would have to be followed when the drug tests are administered," Lina said yesterday in an interview.

He said the drug tests could not be done without the guidelines. Random drug testing on students would begin before the first semester ends, he said.

Lina also said yesterday that there were about 1,000 accredited drug testing centers nationwide, but their licenses would have to be renewed at the end of the month.

A drug test costs about P300 per person, but Lina said the DDB would regulate the price.

But Manila Mayor Joselito Atienza Jr. yesterday said that the local government does not have enough funds for the mandatory drug testing.

"The expenses could cripple us if we were to spend P150 million on the city's 500,000 students given the P300 cost for every individual's drug test," he said. "It would be better if we spend the funds for other projects which will benefit the youth better."

Atienza also said that he doubted the effect of drug tests on students.

He said that although the city government supports the mandatory drug testing for court officials and government and private employees, he believed that the campaign would have a negative effect on the youth.

"Not all students are aware of drugs," the mayor told the INQUIRER. "It will be a terrible thing if this mandatory drug testing would create a negative awareness among the city's young residents." *With a report from Margaux Ortiz*

Coast Guard blameless over sea tragedy

ON TARGET

Ramon Tulfo

PEOPLE readily blame the Coast Guard for the overloading of the wooden-hulled MV San Nicolas, which figured in a collision with the giant Super Ferry 12 in Manila. Thirty one passengers of San Nicolas drowned, according to the last count.

But we should remember that the issue is not overloading but the incompetence of the captains of both ships.

The issue of overloading cropped up only after many passengers who died in the tragedy were found not listed in the San Nicolas manifest.

* * *

The ship's owners should be blamed for the overloading of San Nicolas.

It was impossible for the Coast Guard personnel in Coron, Palawan to have made an exact headcount of passengers of San Nicolas before it left port.

Some passengers aboard ship move around a lot during a headcount which makes it difficult to make an accurate count.

* * *

In most cases the Coast Guard detachment at a port, which is mostly undermanned, rely on the passenger manifest of ships leaving port.

But ship owners lie about the number of passengers on their ships. The exact figure is not reflected in the manifest.

It now boils down to greed on the part of ship owners.

* * *

The incompetence of the ship captains of San Nicolas and Super Ferry 12 should not be blamed on the Coast Guard.

The blame lies in the Professional Regulations Commission (PRC) for giving licenses to half-baked skippers.

It's an open secret that PRC examiners pass applicants for ship officers in consideration for big sums of money.

* * *

The Maritime Industry Authority (Marina) should be blamed for allowing wooden-hulled ships like the San Nicolas to travel long distances.

Under local maritime laws, wooden-hulled ships are not allowed to travel for six hours.

The latest sea tragedy was not so much the fault of the Coast Guard as that of the PRC and the Marina.

* * *

I got hold of a copy of former Abu Sayyaf hostage Gracia Burnham's "In the Presence of My Enemies" while shopping in one of the big grocery stores in a California town.

The book was selling like hot cake. I got two copies for myself and for my brother. After I bought two copies, there was only one copy left on the shelf. A store clerk said many customers had been buying the book since it came on the shelf.

Once again, tiny Philippines has been placed big on the world map because of bad publicity.

* * *

I kept wondering who Abu Sabaya talked with over the satellite phone for the release of construction magnate and former newspaper publisher Reghis Romero. Romero and his girlfriend later "escaped" from the Torres Memorial Hospital in Lamitan, Basilan during a stand-off between the Abu Sayyaf and the unbelievably incompetent military.

Gracia Burnham said she heard the Abu Sayyaf leader talk to an unidentified government official on the satellite phone. She said she had the impression that Sabaya owed past favors to the guy at the other end.

Burnham didn't have a way of knowing who Sabaya talked with for the release of Romero.

But I think I have an idea.

* * *

During the negotiations for the release of the victims who were kidnapped at the Sipadan resort in Sabah, Malaysia, a government official stood out because he was always in touch with another group of Abu Sayyaf kidnappers from Sulu.

This government official, who was appointed by President Estrada as negotiator, was chummy-chummy with the Sulu-based Abu Sayyaf kidnappers.

Rumors circulated—and those rumors probably had basis—that the government official had a cut of the ransom money for the Sipadan hostages.

That government official, in all likelihood, probably was the guy Abu Sabaya talked with over the satellite phone for the release of Reghis Romero and his girlfriend. Romero and several others were snatched from the Dos Palmas resort off Puerto Princesa.

* * *

Up to now, the government official has not been investigated for his alleged part in the "moro-moro" negotiations for the release of the Sipadan hostages who were mostly Europeans.

I suspect this rat shared his loot with his boss.

The boss is now suffering from karma while this rat is still enjoying the fruits of his loot. He has even bought a cemetery run by priests.

* * *

But sooner or later, this government official will be visited by karma for dipping his hands into the blood money.

No karmic debt in this world ever goes unpaid.

Jericho men hit for illegal search

MAKATI Barangay official Anthony Santos has accused members of Task Force Jericho of illegally barging into his house, harassing members of his family, and taking their personal belongings.

Santos, of Barangay Olympia, said he was asleep when the men barged into his house on J. B. Roxas Street at 8:20 p.m. Tuesday night.

The men of Task Force Jericho, a unit attached with the Department of Interior and Local Government, were looking for Santos' nephew, Jay-Jay Santos, who lived next door, Santos said.

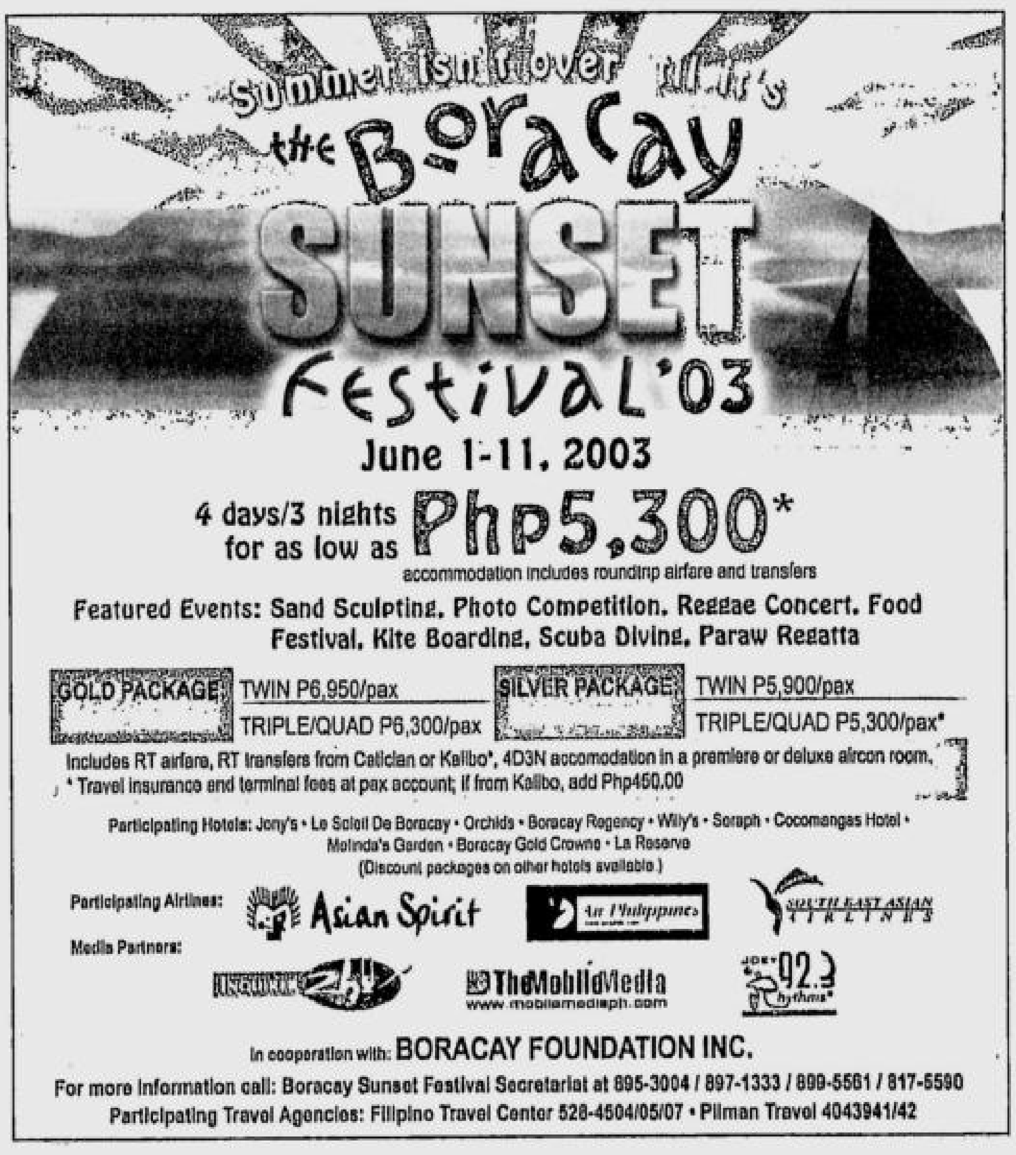
But when they failed to find Jay-Jay, whose address was written on the search warrant, Santos said the armed men raided his house.

Santos said the head of the team, Senior Insp. Jesus Kabigting, apologized and offered his family P1,500 as payment for the damages. But when the men had left, Santos discovered that his P15,000 ring, which had been in the living room, was missing. The cellular phones of his wife and daughter were gone too, he said.

Santos then went to the police to lodge a complaint.

DILG Secretary Joey Lina, who oversees the task force's operations, said Santos could file a complaint with the National Police Commission.

Leila Salaverria



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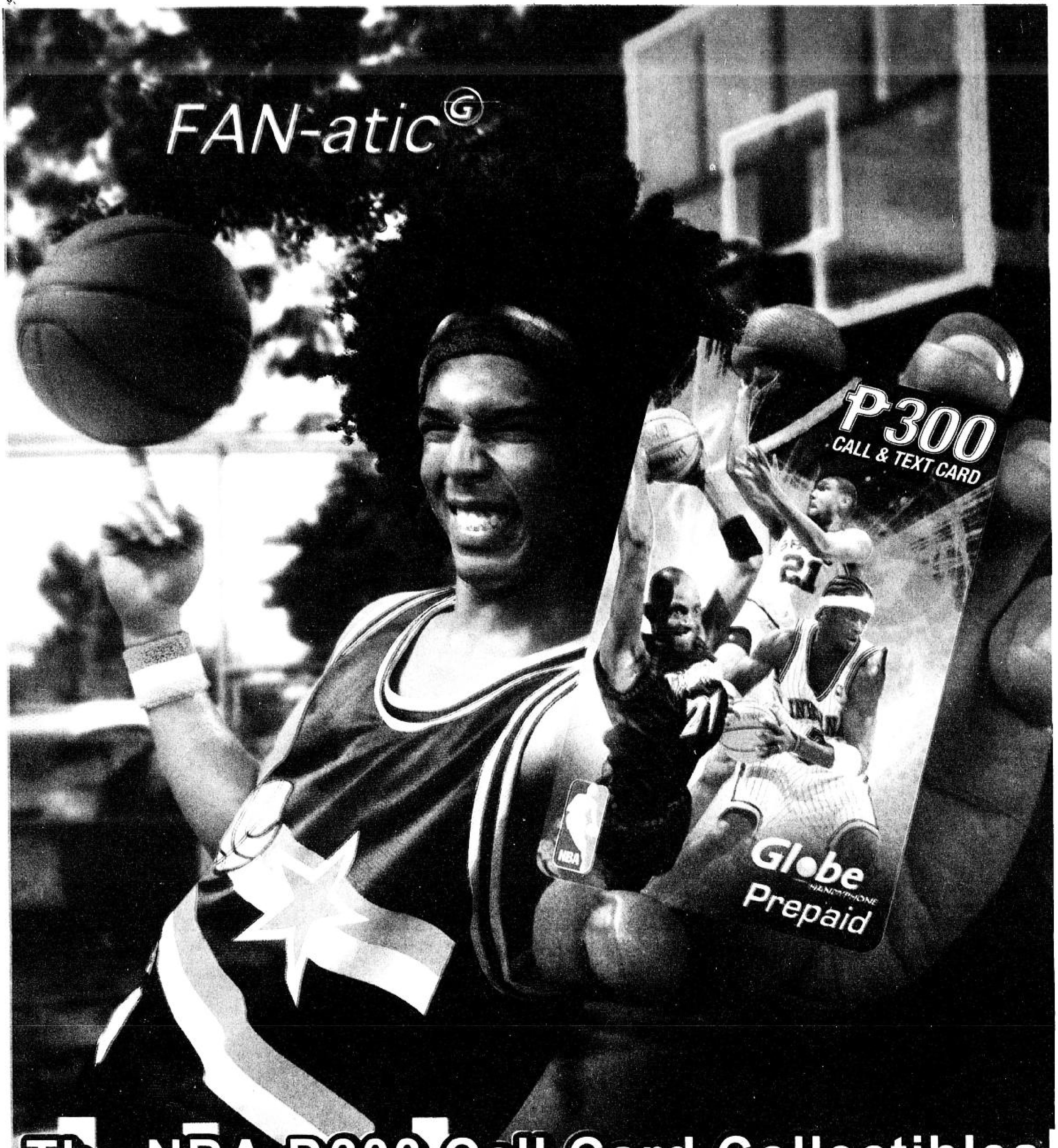

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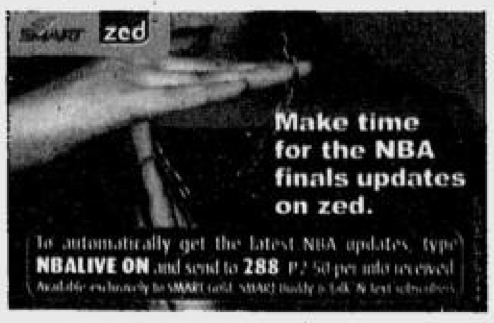
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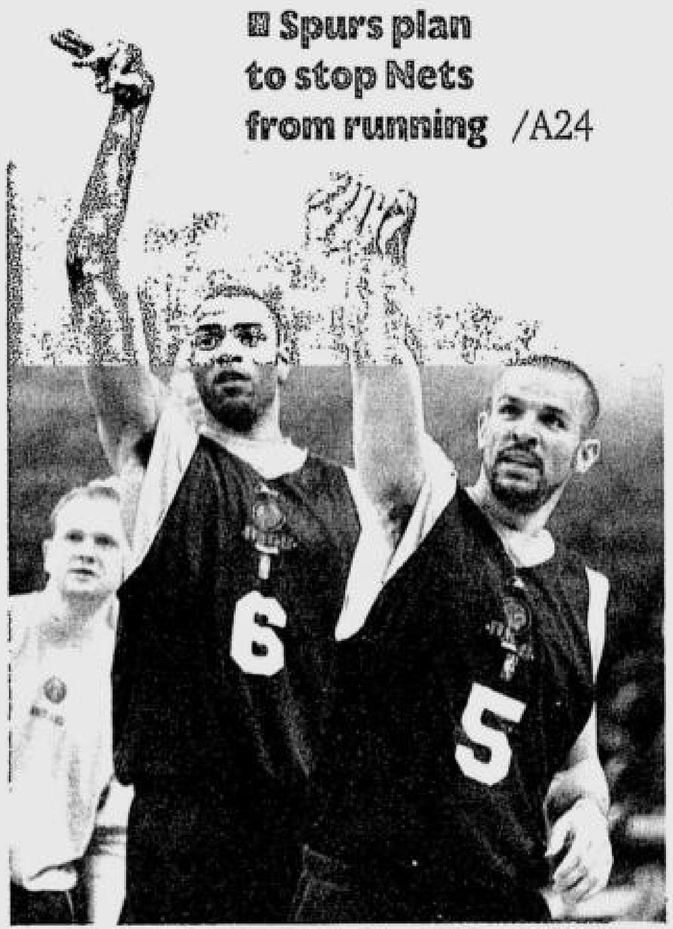
WHAT'S INSIDE

Spurs plan to stop Nets from running /A24



Paragua tops national junior chess /A25

Agassi ousted /A25

Tiger joining Buick /A25

PNP lab ordered to keep mum on PBA drug tests

By TJ Burgonio
and June Navarro

THE HEAD of the PNP Crime Laboratory was ordered yesterday to refrain from making public findings on drug tests in the Philippine Basketball Association.

Actually, the Philippine National Police was not supposed to announce its findings that 14 pro cagers have tested positive for banned drugs, but the PBA yesterday appeared helpless about the breach in protocol.

Although the PBA had earlier claimed that the police report was "totally untrue," PBA Commissioner Noli Eala yesterday claimed the PNP revelation was purely accidental.

Eala defended PNP Crime Laboratory director Chief Superintendent Restituto Mosqueda, saying the official just answered the question popped by Crame mediamen.

"He (Mosqueda) did not make an announcement. The reporters made a mistake by thinking that the 14 belong to a new set of players who were tested positive for prohibited drugs," Eala told the INQUIRER.

Mosqueda told reporters in a press conference Tuesday that 14 of the 21 individuals whose urine samples were taken for confirmation tested positive for prohibited drugs.

Mosqueda yesterday said he has been instructed by his superiors to refrain from making any more announcement on the PBA drug testing results.

Eala said the announcement led the public into thinking that the 14 alleged drug offenders were apart from the PBA players and utility men who already tested positive for prohibited drugs.

The PBA did admit that, under the procedure, the PNP Crime Laboratory was not to divulge results of drug tests, and can only forward the findings to the Department of Health.

Then the PBA, as the contracting party, can collect the results from the DOH for proper action and, possibly, public announcement.

On Tuesday, the PNP said urine samples of the 21 players were submitted to the crime laboratory last month for confirmation after they tested positive for use of drugs during initial tests conducted by the Department of Health.

Mosqueda, however, said he could not reveal the owners of the urine samples tested, explaining that these were numerically coded.

"That's not our responsibility. Our responsibility is to conduct confirmatory tests on the request of the DOH," he said in a phone interview.

Mosqueda also brushed off speculations that chemists could tamper with the results of the confirmatory tests. "We don't change the results. The result is the result. We never do that here," he said.

Eala was claiming that the list bared by Mosqueda was the same one that included Barangay Ginebra's Jun Limpot, Davonn Harp of Batang Red Bull, Talk N' Text's Long David and Noli Locsin, Ryan Bernardo of FedEx and San Miguel Beer's Dorian Peña.

Completing the list of alleged drug offenders are Jimwell Torion of Batang Red Bull, Ginebra's Alex Crisano, Norman Gonzales and Asi Taulava of Talk N' Text and three team utility men whose names were kept underwraps by the PBA.

Meanwhile, Davonn Harp of Batang Red Bull yesterday lodged his appeal for an independent retest before the Commissioner's Office.

Limpot, for his part, promised to submit an appeal to overturn his indefinite suspension either today or tomorrow, the deadline of the six players who failed the test to make an appeal.

Harp and Limpot vowed they would never go through rehabilitation as required by the league as both players maintained their innocence.

Asked how the league would react once Harp and Limpot defy the requirements of the PBA for reinstatement, Eala said he would think about it when both players submitted their official positions.

Row worsens as POC, PSC contract separate outfitters

By Marc Anthony Reyes

SAYING the Philippine Sports Commission will have to seek permission from its office, the Philippine Olympic Committee yesterday reiterated its exclusive right over catch phrases and trademarks relating to the Vietnam Southeast Asian Games.

"There's no problem with that but they need to coordinate with us first," POC secretary general Romy Ribano told the INQUIRER. "Because these logos are for exclusive use of sponsors. We need to talk because there would be problems if the PSC and the POC are getting two rival sponsors."

There is apparently a serious case at hand as the POC's hired marketing firm, International Marketing Group, has reportedly snagged a deal with athletic outfit company Accel to be the official apparel of the national delegation to the Vietnam SEAG.

Accel happens to be the direct competitor of Adidas, which has a live contract with the PSC, started in the Busan Asian Games last year, to make the official uniforms of the RP contingent.

Ribano refused to comment on the sponsorship tug-of-war saying he doesn't "know how deep this problem is."

He however stressed they are mandated by the International Olympic Committee to "protect" logos, trademarks and phrases which are awarded to corporate sponsors of big international competitions like the SEA Games, Asian Games and Olympics.

He said the POC can also allow PSC to use them for marketing purposes provided the government agency coordinates with the Olympic body to avoid miscommunication.

The PSC has questioned newspaper ads wherein the POC claimed exclusive rights over the SEAG-related stuff including the phrase "Team Philippines" which is the national delegation's official name.

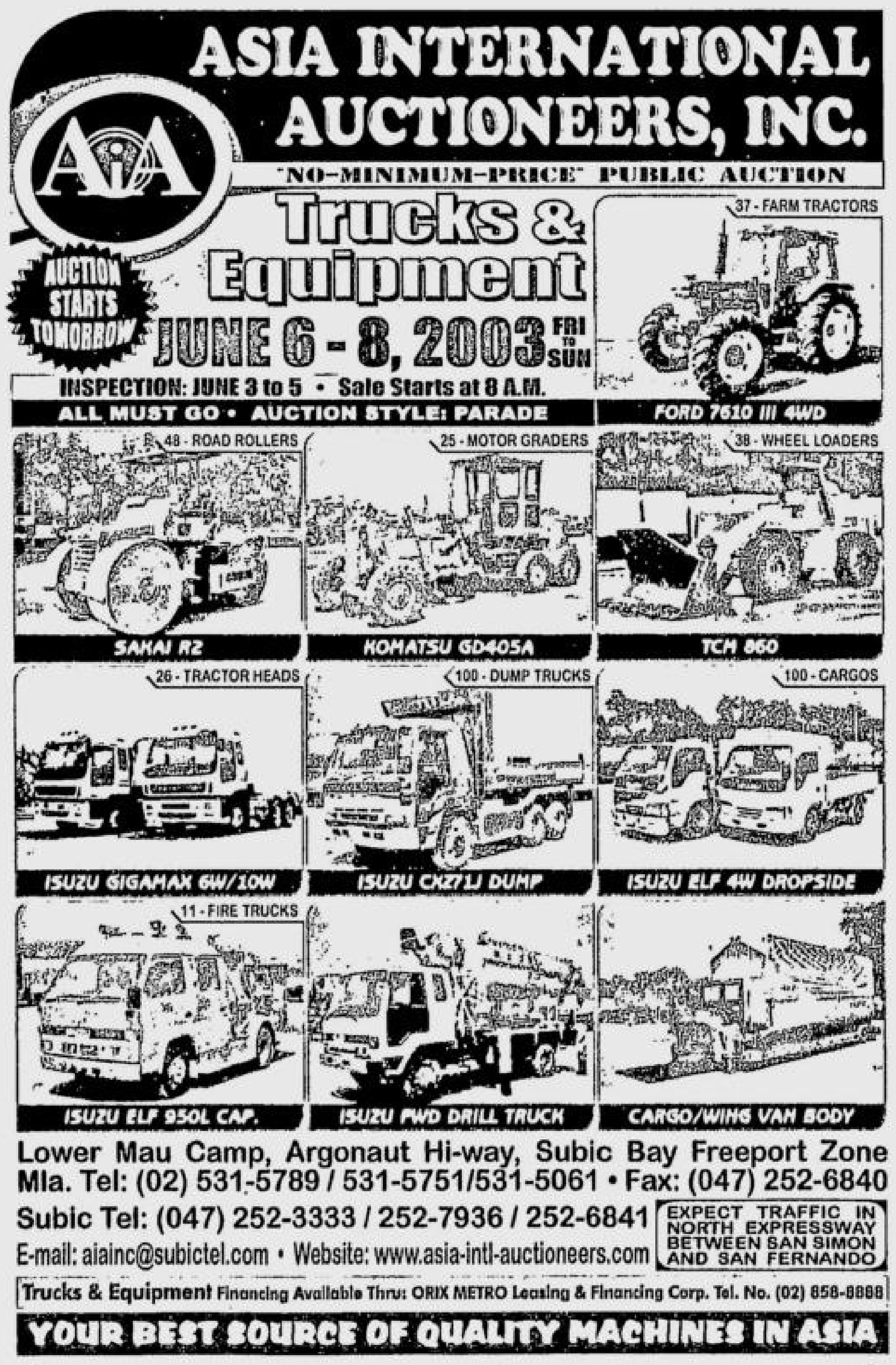
The PSC, which bankrolls the stint of the entire national team in the three major athletic meets, said such a move denies them of another means to generate funds and dig deep into the dwindling resources it gets from the government.

Being a government agency, it is the PSC which grants tax benefits to probable sponsors whether they are tapped by the PSC or the POC.

Still, Ribano admitted that there hasn't been a dialogue between the POC and the PSC regarding SEAG issues.

"The problem is we don't talk although we are at the same building," he said.

"Both our objectives are good, but before signing they (PSC) must consult us so that we don't step on each other's toes," he added.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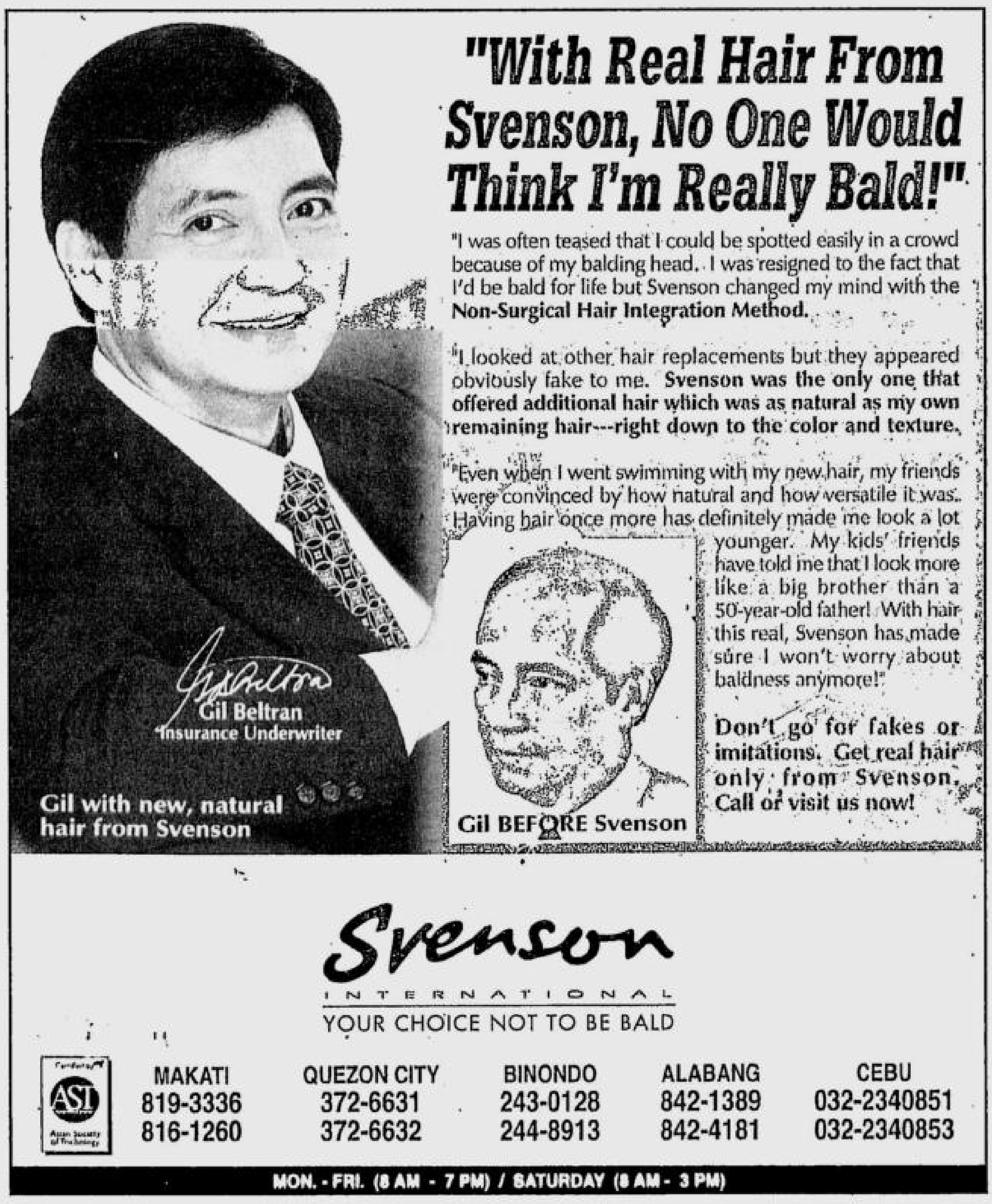
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NBA FINALS ON

Spurs plan: Stop Nets from running

SAN ANTONIO–The New Jersey Nets plan to run, and the San Antonio Spurs plan to stop them from running.

The NBA Finals begin Wednesday night (Thursday morning in Manila), and if the best-of-seven series can be broken down into one central theme, that's it.

If the Nets are successful with their fast break, as they were in the first three rounds, they'll have a much better chance of erasing everyone's collective memory of their dreadful performance in the finals a year ago, when they were swept by the Los Angeles Lakers.

If the Spurs can stop them, San Antonio will dramatically increase its chances of taking home the franchise's second championship.

"I think it's going to pretty much be the series, in the sense of who can force their will on the tempo," Nets guard Jason Kidd said. "The key is to put the ball in the basket, that always helps. But if you can force your tempo and maintain that, whoever does it the longest will probably win the series."

San Antonio also had to stop an opponent's transition game in its last series, but that was against a Dallas Mavericks team that liked to run and shoot jump shots — especially 3-pointers.

The Nets are different.

"These guys will be going to the rim. Dallas had guys run to spots," Spurs forward Bruce Bowen said. "We're accustomed to running back in general, but the Nets and Dallas are totally different teams."

The Nets outscored the Pistons 94-15 in fast-break points during the Eastern Conference finals after outscoring the Boston Celtics 78-22 in the same category during the conference semifinals. New Jersey swept both series.

"If we can limit their transition baskets, we'll have a great opportunity. If not, it'll be a long night for us," Bowen said.

The Spurs held the Mavericks to no more than eight fast-break baskets in five of their six games during the Western Conference finals, and they were only outscored in that category 91-64 over the course of that series.

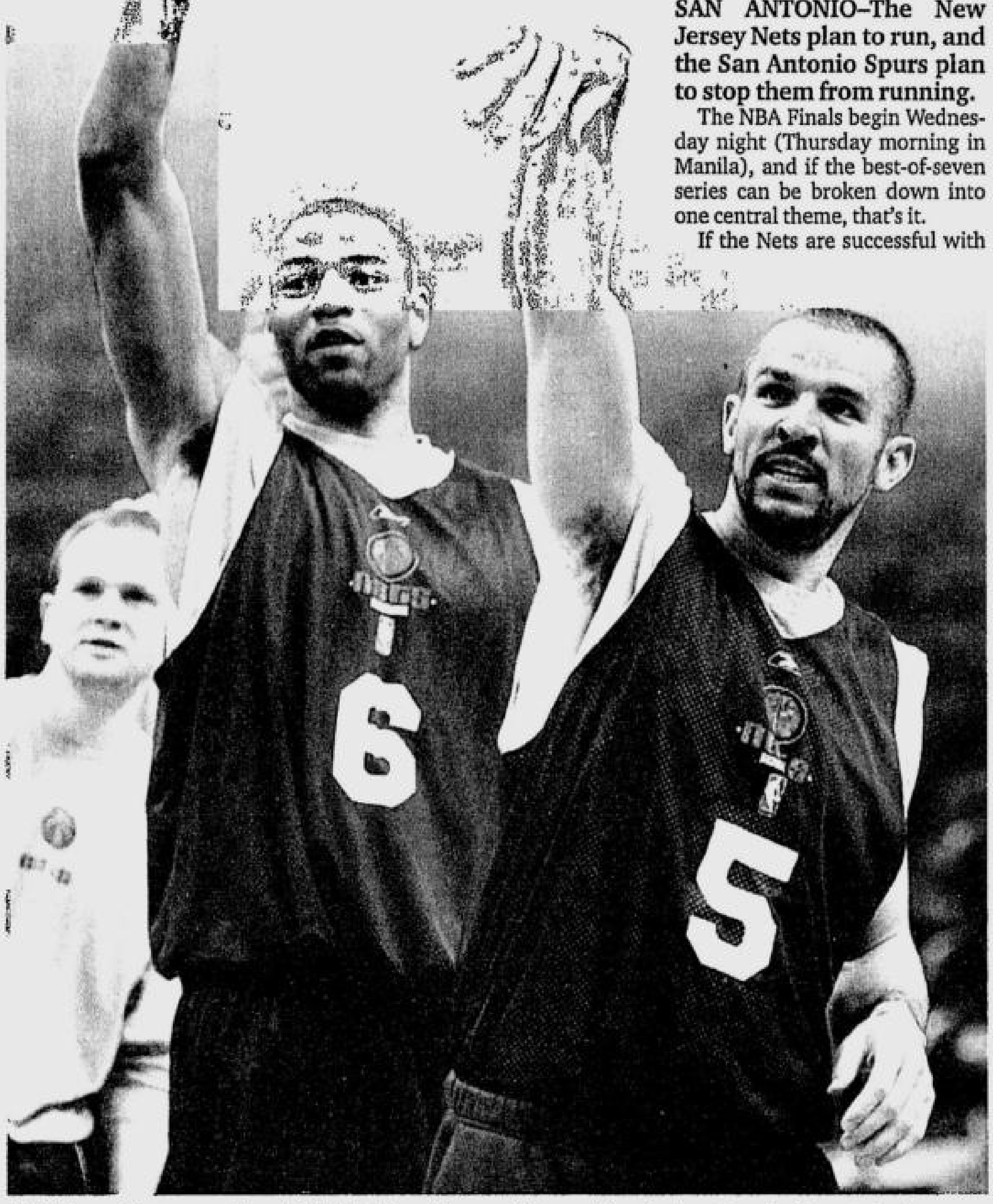
In order to keep the Nets from running, the Spurs will need to sprint back on defense while staying aware of where the ball is.

Kidd is a master at creating fast-break baskets with his pinpoint passing, and he's surrounded by a team of finishers, including Kenyon Martin, Richard Jefferson and Kerry Kittles, all of whom are adept at closing a fast break in style with an alley-oop dunk.

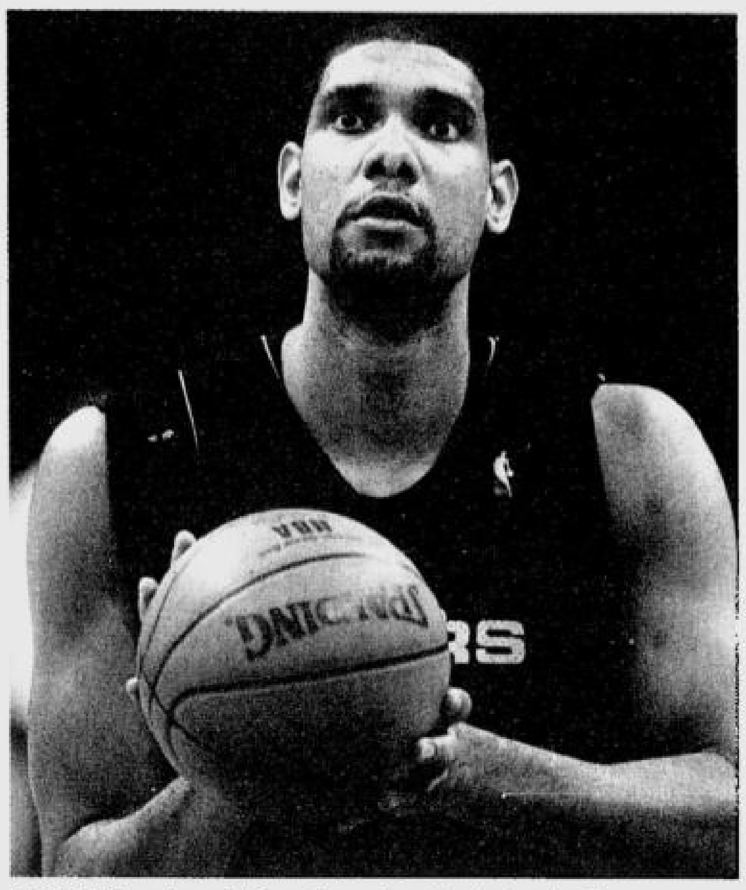
Martin had 105 dunks during the season, which the Nets said was tied for fourth-most in the NBA. Jefferson had 67 dunks, and Kittles 37. As a team, New Jersey had 295 dunks — fourth in the league behind the Lakers, Nuggets and Bulls.

The Nets will look to run whenever they can—off steals, off missed shots, even off made shots. But the key will be turnovers.

"Our weakness is obviously at the free-throw line and committing turnovers," Spurs coach Gregg Popovich said. "Hanging onto the basketball is really a priority for us." *AP*



NEW Jersey Nets guard Jason Kidd (right) and forward Kenyon Martin shoot from half court during practice at the SBC Center in San Antonio, Texas. REUTERS



DUNCAN works on his free throw shooting during the Spurs practice. REUTERS

Mutombo is ready

SAN ANTONIO--Everybody knew the New Jersey Nets acquired Dikembe Mutombo last year with an eye on the NBA Finals — and now that they're back, they finally might make use of their discontented center.

Mutombo hopes he'll play a bigger role in the finals than the bit part he got in the first three rounds. New Jersey's coaches have told the four-time defensive player of the year to be ready for action against Tim Duncan and the Spurs' formidable frontcourt. But Mutombo will believe it when he sees it. *AP*

NBA FINALS 2003

San Antonio vs New Jersey

Spurs 0, Nets 0

Game 1 at San Antonio (June 5, 8:30 a.m.)
Game 2 at San Antonio (June 7, 8:30 a.m.)
Game 3 at New Jersey (June 9, 8:30 a.m.)
Game 4 at New Jersey (June 12, 8:30 a.m.)
*Game 5 at New Jersey (June 14, 8:30 a.m.)
*Game 6 at San Antonio (June 16, 8:30 a.m.)
*Game 7 at San Antonio (June 19, 8:30 a.m.)

*IF NECESSARY
(MANILA TIME, 2-3-2 FORMAT)

GAME One of the NBA Finals between the San Antonio Spurs and the New Jersey Nets will be telecast live on Solar Sports at 8:30 a.m. today (Thursday, June 5) on both Channel 29 (Skycable/Homecable) and IBC-13. The replay will be at 6 p.m. on Channel 29 and 6:30 p.m. on IBC-13. Game Two will be shown live at 8:30 a.m. on Saturday on Channel 29 and slightly delayed at 11 a.m. on IBC-13.

Scott's coaching influence may give New Jersey the edge

SAN ANTONIO--Before the New Jersey Nets start practice, Byron Scott usually can be found goading Brian Scalabrine, Brandon Armstrong or one of the other younger players into a little wager.

It's always a shot from half-court, the baseline or any place on the court with victory determined on a hit or miss.

Scott, who won three titles with the Lakers during their "Showtime" era, wins the challenge more often than not, and then he rubs it in.

"He wants to win, that's just the way he is," said backup guard Lucious Harris, who has seen Scott turn the Nets from one of the NBA's worst teams into the two-time defending Eastern Conference champions in just three seasons as coach.

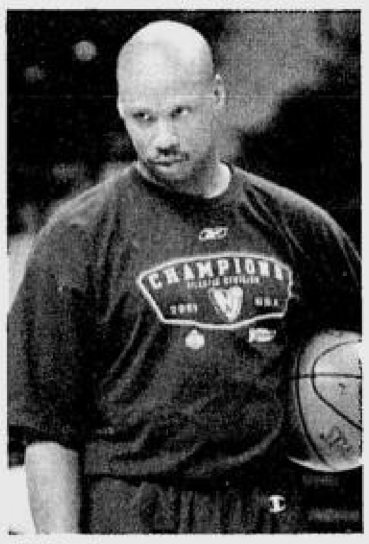
Sure, adding Jason Kidd to the mix last year was a major factor in the rise of the Nets.

However, Scott's influence can't be denied as the Nets prepare to meet the San Antonio Spurs on Wednesday night in the opening game of the NBA Finals, New Jersey's second straight shot at a title.

Mentored by Pat Riley and Larry Brown, Scott's coaching style combines the discipline of his former teachers with the outgoing personality of Magic Johnson and the will of his former Lakers teammates.

"I think Rod said it best: 'He never sweats in a pressure situation,'" Kidd said Tuesday, quoting Nets general manager Rod Thorn.

"He's always calm," Kidd added. "I think that the players feed off of that, because he never panics."



SCOTT

Playing 14 seasons in the NBA might have calmed Scott, but the former shooting guard never goes anywhere unprepared. Coaching is just an example of that.

When Scott was winding up his career in Indiana, Brown walked up to him one day and told him he might make a good coach down the road.

The idea hit a nerve, and Scott started putting his thoughts in a notebook, one of those Spaulding ones with a basketball on it. Over the next seven years he crammed so much basketball information into it, he needed a thick rubber band to keep it closed.

It contained his thoughts on defense, offense, last-second situations, the whole gamut of coaching. And it came in handy when Thorn went looking for a new coach for the Nets in 2000.

Scott was an assistant coach in Sacramento when Thorn called and got permission to talk to him. When the two met in Chicago at the pre-draft meeting, Thorn pulled out a magnetic board and asked Scott what he would do in certain situations.

Low-key Popovich could join elite club of 2-time champs

SAN ANTONIO--Gregg Popovich doesn't preach Zen, slick back his hair or have an extensive collection of suits.

He hasn't uttered a line as memorable as "never underestimate the heart of a champion" or been seen puffing any victory cigars.

So if the San Antonio Spurs win the NBA title, he's going to have to come up with some sort of schtick. How else will he fit into the fraternity of coaches who have won multiple NBA titles?

From frontman Red Auerbach to recent inductees Phil Jackson, Pat Riley, Chuck Daly and Rudy Tomjanovich, coaches who are that successful usually have some sort of calling card.

Not Popovich, who won his first championship in 1999. He'd be happy if people thought of him as the guy who unlocks the gym, hands the ball to Tim Duncan and gets out of the way.

"One of the great things about Pop is that he doesn't have a big ego," said Danny Ferry, finishing his third season under Popovich. "He's all about the team. He keeps his ego out of it and that pervades throughout the whole team."

Popovich's humility comes from earning his way to the top.

After a playing career that peaked with an invitation to the 1972 U.S. Olympic team's training camp, his first head coaching job was with the Pomona-Pitzer Sagehens. He was there eight years. *AP*

The Terry Saldaña Show

SPECTATOR

Al S. Mendoza

FOR a change, here's a quiz. Tell me who the following persons are.

1) Terry Saldaña.

2) Casey (pronounced Ka-a-si) Met.

Pssst! Your time is up. I know your answer. Fifty percent.

You know who Terry Saldaña is because he has suddenly become famous for the wrong reason: He was on TV last week likening the Crispa Redmanizers to squatters. And that was just for starters.

But you don't know who Casey Met is, correct?

I can understand. Casey Met has been in a tabloid's news brief section all the time that Terry Saldaña was hogging the spotlight.

Yet, Casey Met is a victim of a crime more bizarre than the crime committed by Saldaña.

Casey Met, 37, recently left Tokok Barikir for Dagupan City.

He came to try out for a PBA team. He ignored the chorus of a neighborhood warning about his knees being too old for basketball.

"I may be old, but my heart is always young," he told his barrio mates, citing the heroism of his idol from the NBA, the 37-year-old Steve Kerr who engineered San Antonio's advance to a title showdown against New Jersey starting today.

As luck would have it, the heart prevailed. Casey Met made it to the Panggalatok Basketball Association, in the process establishing a record as the oldest to make it to the region's premiere league.

But he made an emotion-driven mistake, went home before he could play his first game, bought some beer and hosted a party.

This put him in a very vulnerable position.

When he took a leak after having gulped one drink too many, some punk, out of envy, spiked his glass with cough syrup.

Next day, he tested positive for drugs after he played his first PBA game. Devastated, and still nursing a hangover brought on by beer and cough syrup, he put the barrel of a gun into his mouth and killed himself.

It was a scene straight out of Hollywood. Dead Poets Society revisited. American Beauty reprised.

Yet, Casey Met is already history. Old hat. Within 24 hours, his death was no longer the news. Instead, the news focus the day after the tragedy was on mere data gathering: his death merely added to a crime statistic.

Casey Met was small time news and small time news is no match to big time news such as a moron masquerading as a maverick and making himself MVP at that. What irony.

Country news such as Casey Met has always been like that - almost unworthy of national attention.

Meanwhile, at about the same time the Casey Met case was happening, Terry Saldaña was getting prime coverage in the media.

Why because Terry Saldaña, he of the GI fame who once shone bright amid adversity, is suddenly national news again. This time, he did it minus the humility of the downtrodden that he was known of.

Anyone embarrassing himself before the cameras is always grist for copy, which was what Terry Saldaña did this time. And I thought sage always came with age.

The Terry Saldaña Show was like man biting dog all over again. Not the other way around or you won't hit the big time at all, buddy.

Terry Saldaña speaking gutter language is the stuff that makes headlines. Never mind that he debases himself with his unschooled thoughts. Evil, like notoriety, sometimes sells better than good.

Terry Saldaña sticking out his tongue at Atoy Co is what grabs the spotlight. Didn't you see Mike Tyson spitting rabies in that scene?

Good thing Atoy Co had kept his distance. Who knows what might have happened if he were maybe just a millimeter away. Terry Saldaña could have chomped his ear the way Mike Tyson did to Evander Holyfield a while back.

But given the dangers of being exposed to a guy looking more gunned up by shabu than being really sober, I'll still buy it. I mean, let's have it again if only to prove that Terry Saldaña is, contrary to popular belief, not as sane as you and me as his mother would profess he was the night of the Reunion Game.

So, c'mon, don't be a KJ.

Terry Saldaña sticking his tongue and all, give me that Crispa-Toyota rematch.

Terry Saldaña badmouthing Crispa and all, give me that Crispa-Toyota rematch.

But on one condition, though. Let's require Terry Saldaña to wear a mouth guard, covered with a surgical mask made from Shanghai.

A vaccine for rabies is no guarantee for SARS attack.

SPORTSWATCH

Umpires eject Sosa

CHICAGO—Sammy Sosa of the Chicago Cubs was ejected when umpires found illegal cork in his shattered bat during Tuesday's 3-2 Interleague win over the Tampa Bay Devil Rays. Sosa broke his bat in the first inning on a grounder to second base with Chicago runners at second and third. But crew chief Tim McClelland examined the bat along with the three other umpires immediately after the out was called and the run scored. The umpires showed the bat to Chicago manager Dusty Baker before ejecting Sosa, who was standing in the dugout. *AP*

Tiger joining Buick

HARRISON, New York—Tiger Woods added the Buick Classic to his schedule Tuesday, committing to play in the Westchester tournament following the US Open next week at Olympia Fields. The Buick endorser last appeared in the event in 2001, when it also was played the week after the US Open. The Westchester Country Club tournament has rotated around the US Open in recent years, filling the spot before the major championship when the Open is played close to New York City, and the week after when it was played outside the area. *AP*

Angeles rules karting

PRIMOS Racedevil's Maico Angeles beat Edgesport's Ivan Carapiet last weekend in the fourth leg of the 2003 Shell Karting Super Series at the Carmona Circuit Philippines here. Patience paid off for Angeles who waited for the right time to regain the pole from Carapiet and rule the KT Light division of this event sponsored by Pilipinas Shell, Bridgestone, Nokia, Denso and Eastways. Sharing the limelight in this series sanctioned by the Automobile Association of the Philippines were M&M Racing-MP Turbo's Marty Aguilar and Birel-A3 Motorsports' Buffy Laurel. Aguilar won the Formula 125 Juniors against M&M Racing-MP Turbo teammates Mark Bumgarner and third placer Ysabel Potenciano, daughter of racing champion Mike Potenciano. Laurel bagged the Cadet 85 title.

Players' fund boosted

THE PHILIPPINE Basketball Association's Player Trust Fund got a major boost during the recent All Star Weekend. Toyota Motor Philippines donated P500,000 to the player's trust fund in recognition of all the past and present PBA athletes' efforts and achievements in elevating basketball as the country's top sporting event. Toyota is the first corporation to donate to the trust fund established to help former PBA players who are in need of financial assistance. No less than the country's most recognizable athlete and former Toyota superstar, Sen. Robert Jaworski announced the firm's support. Danny Isla, first vice-president of TMP, turned over the donation in behalf of the car firm.

Pony meet gets going

THE SWIFT Pony Invitational tournament got off to a rousing start recently at the Alabang Country Club. The event features 27 baseball and softball teams for boys and girls, 8 to 18 years old, coming from Metro Manila, Laguna, Batangas and Bulacan. Hosting the meet this year is the Alabang Baseball and Softball Club headed by Dito Borromeo in cooperation with the Philippine Tot Baseball Foundation led by Boy Tingzon. It will be the basis of selecting the national team members competing in the Pony World Championships. RFM executive Rally Martinez represented RFM president and CEO Joey Concepcion III during the opening ceremonies.

Derby semis today

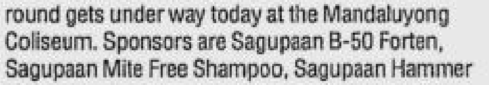
THE NATIONAL Fil-Am 9-Cock Derby semifinal round gets under way today at the Mandaluyong Coliseum. Sponsors are Sagupaan B-50 Forten, Sagupaan Mite Free Shampoo, Sagupaan Hammer Dewormer, Heritage Hotel, Pagcor Casino Filipino and Lakpue Drug's Washout Shampoo. The early pacesetters, with two points each, include newspaper publisher Butch Macasaet (Phoenix Greenwood Balbina), former ambassador Danding Cojuangco (Bumble Bee Balbina) and OPMI president Vic Yu (Sir Christopher). The 4-cock finals is on Saturday, June 7. Meanwhile, the RJMM 4-Cock Derby is all set on Tuesday, June 10. For inquiries, please call 531-4003, 531-4005, 534-4110 and 535-2341.

Awards for triathletes

WORLDWIDE Olympic sponsor John Hancock Life Insurance awarded cash prizes and medals to the six top Philippine athletes for their outstanding performances in the Elite Division of the recent 10th Subic Bay International Triathlon. The awardees were George Bilog, John Abdul, Mark Candelaria in the men's division, and Ani Karina De Leon, Popo Nagtalon and Bing Alto in the women's bracket. Michael G. Plaxton, president and CEO of John Hancock Life Insurance Corporation, presented the awards.

Butuan netter wins

BUTUAN—Local bet Annafil Salamon downed Nikki de Dios of Valencia, Bukidnon, 2-6, 6-4, 6-2 to advance in the girls' 14-under of the Adidas Tennis Challenge 2003 at the Luz Village Tennis Club here Tuesday. And while Adidas Cebu leg twin titlist Nino Alcantara of Malaybalay blanked Tonton Alcantara, Surigao City netters Juv Alban and Juke Alban ousted Mark Olavides 6-1, 5-7, 6-3 and John Ryan Donio 6-4, 6-2, respectively in the Adidas netfest organized by CTW.



AT SANTA ANA BY MR. 999

Race 1--1.Tender Value 2. Breakaway 3. Black & White
Race 2--1. Divine Right 2. Simple Doding 3. Habagat 4. Yonder Girl 5. Blue Iris
Race 3--1. Madam Aida 2. Swinger 3. Freindly Lover 4. Black Force
Race 4--1. Sky Wind 2. Boss Lino 3. Claro Di Ba 4. My Prayer
Race 5--1. Fair Go 2. Remarkable 3. Time Essential 4. Close Account
Race 6--1. Cash McCall 2. Hezagonebabes 3. Snowy Market
Race 7--1. Alessandra 2. Suterin Era 3. Rose and Toy 4. Premiere Stock
Race 8--1. Secret Lover 2. Virgin Atlantic 3. Signal Mountain
Race 9--1 That's My Tiger 2. Popularity 3. Real Material 4. Rumba

Agassi ousted

Faster, younger Argentine shines

PARIS—Andre Agassi huffed as he chased Guillermo Coria's drop shot, each exhale the sound a tea kettle makes right before it whistles: shhh, shhh, shhh.

Agassi scooped the ball over, and Coria lofted a lob. So Agassi reversed course, huffing to the baseline. His back to the court, he hit the ball over his shoulder. The shot cleared the net but sailed wide–and Coria was right there, just in case.

A step slower than his opponent, and not nearly as comfortable on clay, Agassi was made to look his age Tuesday. Coria outslugged the eight-time major champion from the baseline, carving out a 4-6, 6-3, 6-2, 6-4 victory in the French Open quarterfinals.

"I just couldn't quite play it exactly on my terms," Agassi said, "and that had nothing to do with anything but the way he was hitting the ball."

Coria, seeded seventh, slapped 20 winners with his backhand, most finding lines, and eight with his forehand. He broke serve nine times and came as close as anyone can to breaking Agassi's will by chasing down shots in the corners and whipping the ball back.

Point after point, Coria slid into a stroke, leaving long skid marks in the clay.

"He's a good mover," Agassi said. "It gives him a lot of options in his game, and he's a good decision-maker on the court."

For Coria–at 21, a dozen years younger than Agassi–it was his first victory in three tries against a player he rooted for as a kid. Coria kept one of Agassi's rackets as a souvenir Tuesday.

The Argentine's first Grand Slam semifinal will come against a player who never won a match at a major until last week: Martin Verkerk of the Netherlands, who pounded 27 aces to upset 1998 French Open champion Carlos Moya of Spain 6-3, 6-4, 5-7, 4-6, 8-6.

Wednesday's quarterfinals pit defending champion Albert Costa vs. Tommy Robredo, and 2002 runner-up Juan Carlos Ferrero vs. Fernando Gonzalez.

The women's final four is set, and Serena Williams was dominant in a 6-1, 6-2 defeat of Amelie Mauresmo, the last French player in the tournament. Williams won 16 of the opening 19 points and finished with a 24-5 edge in winners.

Mauresmo was one of two players to beat Williams this year; the other was Justine Henin-Hardenne of Belgium, her semifinal opponent. Henin-Hardenne topped Chanda Rubin 6-3, 6-2, and is projected to pass Venus Williams for No. 3 in the rankings.

The other women's semifinal is 2001 runner-up Kim Clijsters, another Belgian, against unseeded Nadia Petrova of Russia. Clijsters ousted Conchita Martinez 6-2, 6-1. *AP*

CORIA jubilates after eliminating Agassi. AFP

Paragua tops nat'l junior chess

GRANDMASTER-Candidate Mark Callano Paragua and Woman National Master Kathryn Ann Cruz topped their respective brackets in the 2003 Philippine Junior Chess Championship Tuesday night at the SM Megamall. Handling black in the final round, Paragua defeated 3rd seed Oliver Barbosa to score 9.5 points in the 11-round Swiss system tournament which attracted 125 participants.

Tying at 2nd to 3rd place with 9 points each are 2nd seed NM John Paul Gomez and 4th seed NM Roderick Nava. Barbosa dropped to a tie for 4th to 6th place with 89th seed Karlo Britanico and 45th seed Eugene Dimarucut. They tallied 8 points apiece.

In the distaff side, 2nd seed Cruz defeated 46th seed Enerose Magno to win the girl's 20 and under division with 10 points.

Paragua, an international master who has earned a GM result, and Cruz thus earned the right to represent the country in the 2003 Asian Juniors Chess Championships in Sri Lanka later this year.

SPORTS TV

Compiled by L. Manguiat

BASKETBALL: NBA Finals - Nets vs Spurs, Game 1, 8:30 a.m.; IBC 13 (r - 7 p.m.) and Solar Sports (r - 10 p.m.) - New Jersey and San Antonio, two former ABA teams, begin their best-of-seven series for the NBA crown.

1991 Chicago Bulls - Learning to Fly; 5 p.m. (r); ESPN - Relive the Chicago Bulls' first championship.

TENNIS: 2003 French Open; 9 p.m. and midnight; Solar Sports - The final four females slug it out for a place in Saturday's title match.

Sunkist PBL Unity Cup

Horseowners protest 'overage' galloper

THE HIGHLY-AWAITED sweepstakes race on June 22 may not push through.

Reason? Four of the six owners whose horses are set to join the event are threatening to boycott it in protest over one entry they claim is older than the other runners.

The horse in question is named Don Paolo whom noted owners-breeders Eric Tagle, Hermie Esguerra, Amado Bagatsing and Pierre Niles said bears a "marking" of a three-year-old.

"That race was supposed to be only for two-year-old horses but Don Paolo has a "00" marking, meaning he was born in 2000, thus he's already three years old and ineligible to run," the group told the INQUIRER yesterday.

They said that Don Paolo's edge over the rest of the field was clearly seen during last Monday's trial run of the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes-race backed event.

Don Paolo, owned by the RG Mendoza Stable, handily beat his rivals over 1,500 meters, checking in almost four seconds ahead of his nearest pursuer."*Halos isang disi-sais nanalo* (He won by a mile)," one of the owners added.

If allowed to race, they said said that Don Paolo would be qualified to run in the Juvenile events this year and in the Triple Crown next year as a 4-year-old.

"If that will be the case, it will bring havoc to all owners and breeders who are competing fairly and squarely," they added

The horseowners have already sent their letter of protest to the PCSO, Philippine Racing Commission and National Stud Farm.

Aside from Don Paolo, other declared horses for the June 22 sweepstakes were Tagle's Western Legend, Esguerra's Beautiful Mind, Bagatsing's Be My Lady, Niles' Formidable Ella and Ochie Santos' Hawk Eye.

Edwin Villanueva

'Empire' out to snap curse

ELMONT, New York—Empire Maker and trainer Bobby Frankel will be trying to snap their respective Triple Crown curses during Saturday's Belmont Stakes.

Both set off on the gruelling US Triple Crown trail with dreams of glory but have been thwarted at every turn by new racing star Funny Cide.

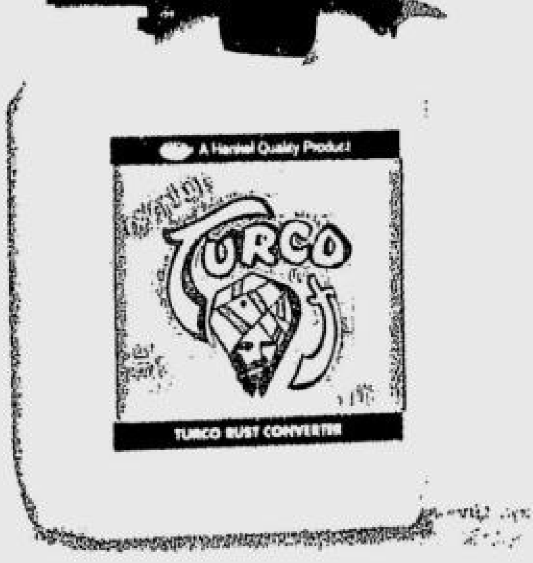
Now Brooklyn-born Frankel brings his star charge to New York for Saturday's Belmont Stakes hoping to stop Funny Cide from landing the fabled Triple Crown.

After impressive victories in two Triple Crown prep races, Empire Maker came to the Kentucky Derby all the rage at the betting windows.

The son of 1990 Derby winner Unbridled, many believed the colt had every chance of becoming thoroughbred racing's first Triple Crown winner since 1978. *Reuters*

Let's Get to Work

Henkel Phils. is proud to have the no. 1 widely-trusted original Turco Rust Converter in its excellent team of products. Already, our service is in full gear, providing industrial steel users and craftsmen with the Turco advantage. So let's put on our hats and get to work. Because we know that you expect the best from the best, nothing less.



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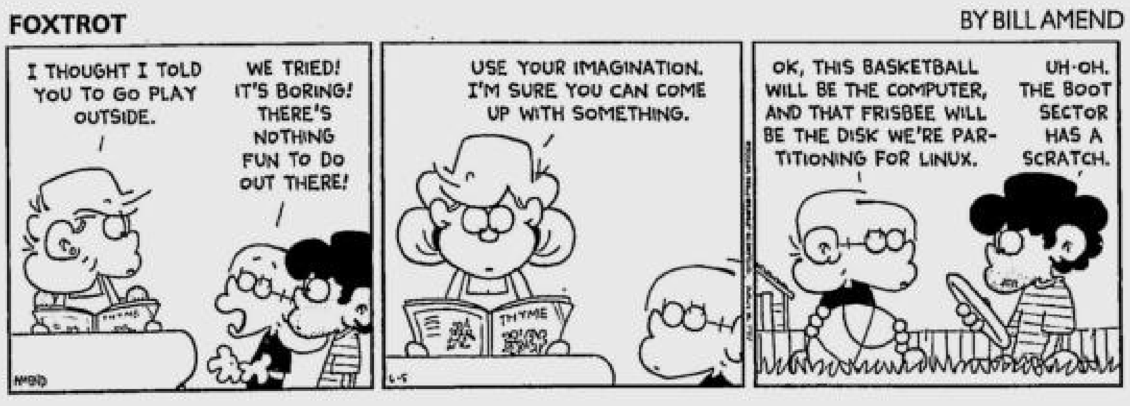
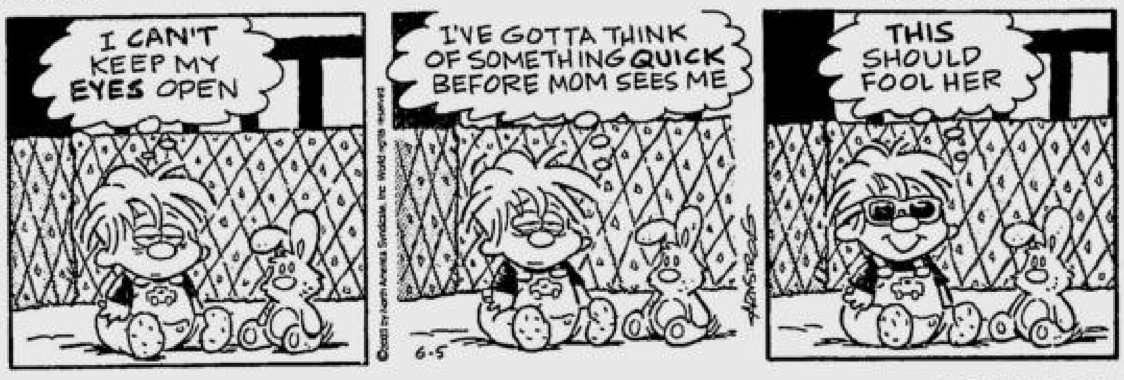
FOXTROT

BY BILL AMEND


I THOUGHT I TOLD YOU TO GO PLAY OUTSIDE.
WE TRIED! IT'S BORING! THERE'S NOTHING FUN TO DO OUT THERE!
USE YOUR IMAGINATION. I'M SURE YOU CAN COME UP WITH SOMETHING.
THYME
OK, THIS BASKETBALL WILL BE THE COMPUTER, AND THAT FRISBEE WILL BE THE DISK WE'RE PARTITIONING FOR LINUX.
UH-OH. THE BOOT SECTOR HAS A SCRATCH.

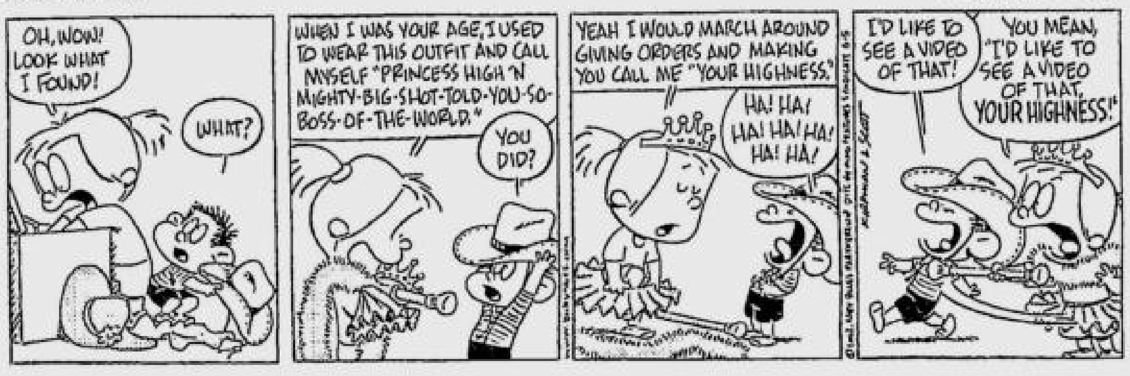
MARVIN

BY TOM ARMSTRONG


I CAN'T KEEP MY EYES OPEN
I'VE GOTTA THINK OF SOMETHING QUICK BEFORE MOM SEES ME
THIS SHOULD FOOL HER
6-5

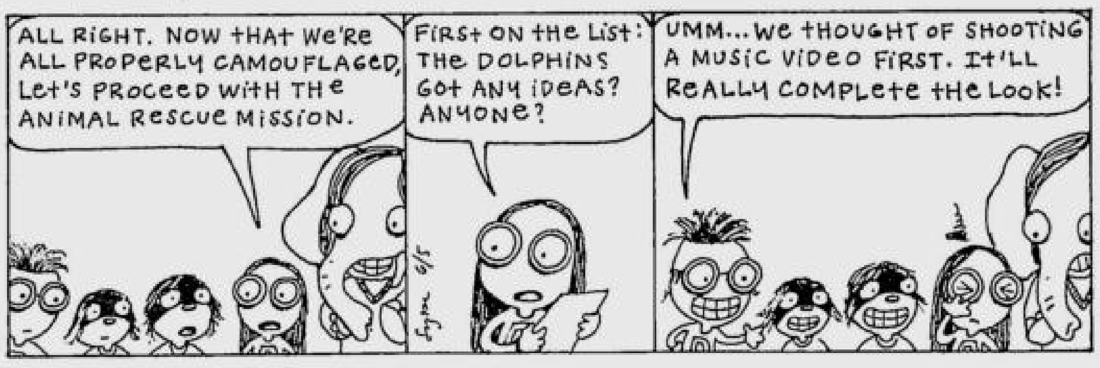
BABY BLUES

BY JERRY SCOTT


OH, WOW! LOOK WHAT I FOUND!
WHAT?
WHEN I WAS YOUR AGE, I USED TO WEAR THIS OUTFIT AND CALL MYSELF "PRINCESS HIGH 'N MIGHTY-BIG-SHOT-TOLD-YOU-SO-BOSS-OF-THE-WORLD."
YOU DID?
YEAH I WOULD MARCH AROUND GIVING ORDERS AND MAKING YOU CALL ME "YOUR HIGHNESS."
HA! HA! HA! HA! HA! HA! HA!
I'D LIKE TO SEE A VIDEO OF THAT!
YOU MEAN, "I'D LIKE TO SEE A VIDEO OF THAT, YOUR HIGHNESS!"

ATOMO AND WEBOY

BY LYRA GARCELLANO


ALL RIGHT. NOW THAT WE'RE ALL PROPERLY CAMOUFLAGED, LET'S PROCEED WITH THE ANIMAL RESCUE MISSION.
FIRST ON THE LIST: THE DOLPHINS. GOT ANY IDEAS? ANYONE?
UMM... WE THOUGHT OF SHOOTING A MUSIC VIDEO FIRST. IT'LL REALLY COMPLETE THE LOOK!
Lyra 6/5

HOROSCOPE

BY FRANCIS DRAKE

YOU BORN TODAY: You are clever and quick-witted. But beyond that, you have a systematic, logical mind. You are far-sighted and modern in your outlook. Because of this, others sometimes misunderstand you. You are often a late bloomer. Expect to study, learn and possibly teach this year. To do this, you will have more solitude.
Birthdate of: Bill Moyers, journalist; Mark Wahlberg, actor; Laurie Anderson, composer/performance artist.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19): Impulse buying could lead to spontaneous purchases that are quite different and unusual. Nevertheless, this is your nature. You love to be bold and daring.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20): Flirtations from unexpected sources could catch you off-guard today. Nevertheless, it's flattering to think someone admires you. (On the other hand, you could develop a crush on someone.)

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): You feel a bit rebellious and highly independent. You don't want others giving you orders. (Especially if you think they're not as smart as you are—which is likely the case.)

CANCER (June 21 to July 22): A friend might shock you today by telling you something. If you look too shocked, this person will stop talking. If you want to hear more, it's up to you.

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22): Good news or bad news about shared property is possible today. It could go either way. The only thing that is certain is that you'll be surprised by something unexpected.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): Technological breakdowns and equipment repairs could cause delays at work today. There is no point worrying over something that cannot be changed. Just accept what is.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): Unexpected help, approval or supplies can make your job easier today. For a few, the reverse is true. Surprises with the resources and property of others are likely.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): Casual friendships could blossom into pleasant flirtations today. Something happens that gives your heart a little lift. (Consider yourself lucky.)

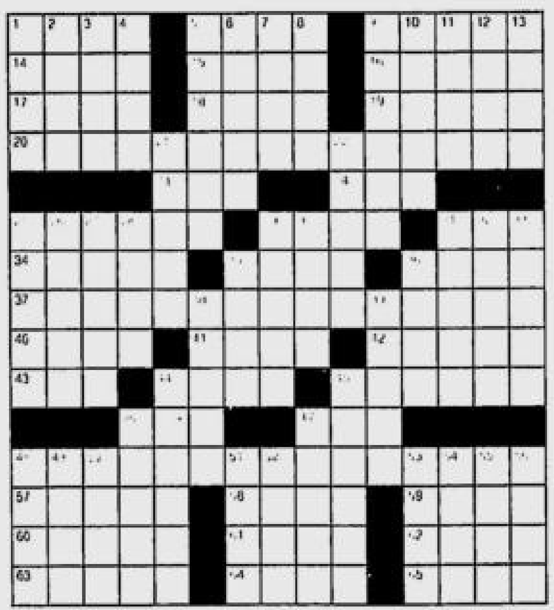
SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): If you want to clean up the place on impulse, do it. Your desire to get organized and make things work better is excellent. Don't hesitate to act on it.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19): Love at first sight might happen for some of you today. Unexpected thrills, entertaining diversions and charming, playful times with children will please you.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18): You might buy something on a whim today that makes your home more attractive. If it pleases you, do it. Similarly, you might want to treat a family member to a little gift.

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20): You're full of bright ideas and charming wit today! Your mind is percolating with thoughts about the future. You see a way to increase your freedom down the road.

DAILY CROSSWORD



By Diane C. Baldwin
Columbia, MD

6/5/03

ACROSS
1 Dance move
5 Talks sweetly
9 Double quartet
14 California valley
15 Up to the job
16 Set up an innocent party
17 Rotation line
18 Churn up
19 __ acid (B-complex vitamin)
20 Hale
23 Call for help
24 Aardvark's snack
25 I couldn't care less!
29 Find one's way
31 Praiseful composition
34 Biggio or Stadler
35 Gram starter
36 Enthusiastic
37 Active
40 Sense organ
41 Two-finger signs
42 Door hardware
43 Explosive letters
44 Property claim
45 Sweethearts
46 Slithery squeezer
47 Type of joint
48 Peppy
57 Great brilliance
58 Sum to tide one over
59 Bit of rain
60 Hue
61 Poet Pound
62 Grave
63 Skin cream
64 Marine shockers
65 Coastal covering

DOWN
1 Lose one's cool
2 Head down the runway
3 Larger-than-life
4 Beyond
5 Bunny snack
6 Certain reeds
7 Hodgepodge
8 Braggart's concern
9 Outrage
10 Resident of Zagreb
11 Type of tale
12 Radiate
13 Software support
21 Habitual practice
22 Asian capital
25 Meager
26 Synthetic fiber
27 Belt place
28 Bee colony
29 Enlarge upon
30 Antlered animals
31 Of sheep
32 Squalid
33 Periphery
35 Patella's location
36 Related
38 Of birds
39 Uses an axe
44 Hang around
45 Serengeti predators
46 Part of a paddle
47 Tree knot
48 Song or gab trailer
49 Repeat verbatim
50 Verve
51 High spirits
52 Slimy stuff
53 Bookie's concern
54 Domingo showstopper
55 Of two minds
56 Drove too fast

Wednesday's Puzzle Solved

S	M	O	G	■	W	H	O	A	■	C	H	A	M	P
C	O	D	E	■	E	A	R	S	■	R	E	T	I	E
A	D	D	T	O	T	H	E	P	A	Y	R	O	L	L
M	E	S	S	U	P	■	S	E	R	B	■	N	A	T
■	■	■	B	R	A	S	■	N	E	A	T	E	N	S
S	P	R	Y	■	I	T	S	■	A	B	E	■	■	■
E	L	I	■	S	N	O	O	P	■	I	L	I	A	D
C	O	M	M	I	T	O	N	E	S	E	L	F	T	O
T	W	E	E	D	■	P	A	T	H	S	■	F	O	E
■	■	■	A	C	E	■	R	A	E	■	G	Y	M	S
D	A	S	T	A	R	D	■	L	E	E	R	■	■	■
O	A	T	■	E	R	O	S	■	P	R	O	W	L	S
C	R	O	S	S	S	W	O	R	D	S	W	I	T	H
K	O	R	E	A	■	N	O	N	C	■	L	E	N	O
S	N	E	E	R	■	S	N	A	G	■	S	W	A	T

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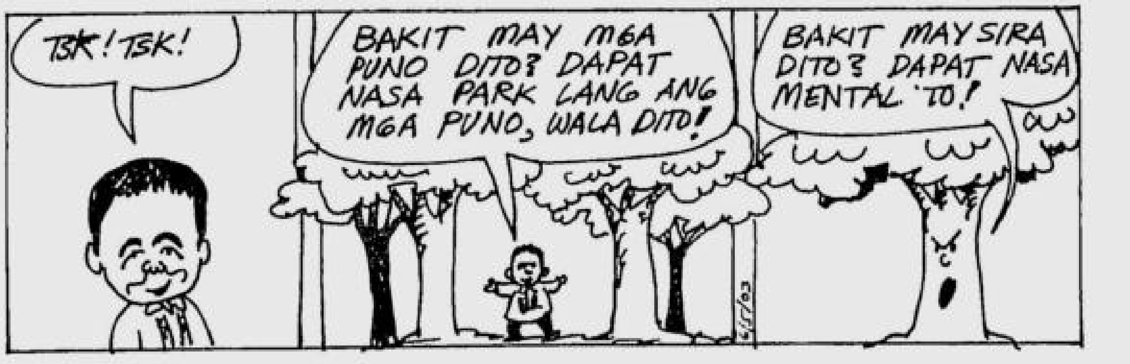
6/5/03

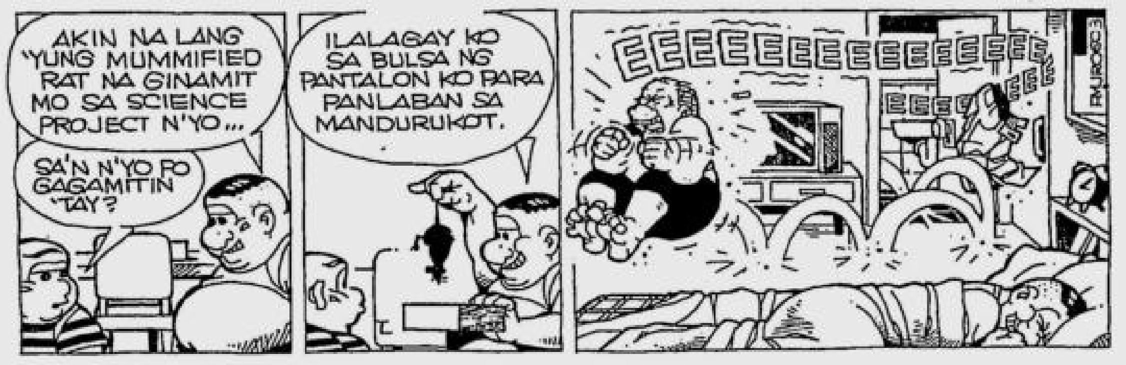
A. LIPIN

BY JESS ABRERA


TSK! TSK!
BAKIT MAY MGA PUNO DITO? DAPAT NASA PARK LANG ANG MGA PUNO, WALA DITO!
BAKIT MAY SIRA DITO? DAPAT NASA MENTAL 'TO!
6/5/03

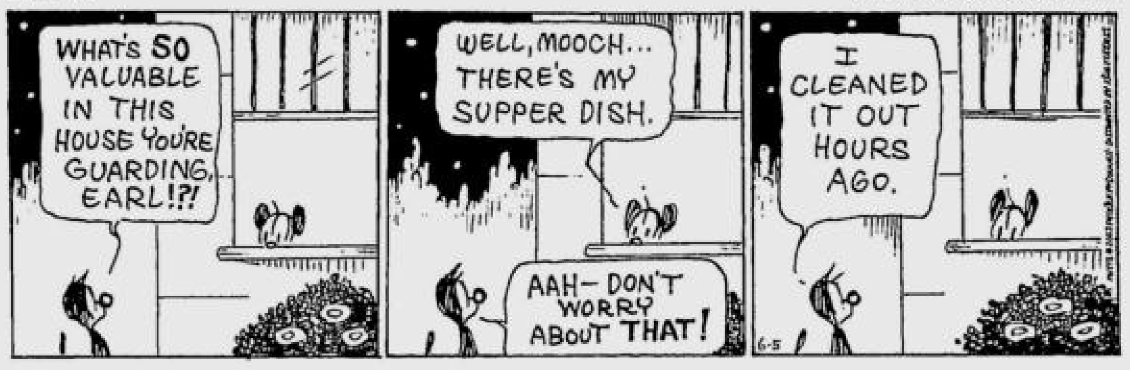
PUGAD BABOY

BY P.M. JUNIOR


AKIN NA LANG 'YUNG MUMMIFIED RAT NA GINAMIT MO SA SCIENCE PROJECT N'YO...
SA'N N'YO PO GAGAMITIN 'TAY?
ILALAGAY KO SA BULSA NG PANTALON KO PARA PANLABAN SA MANDURUKOT.
EEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEE
EEEEE
PMJR0603

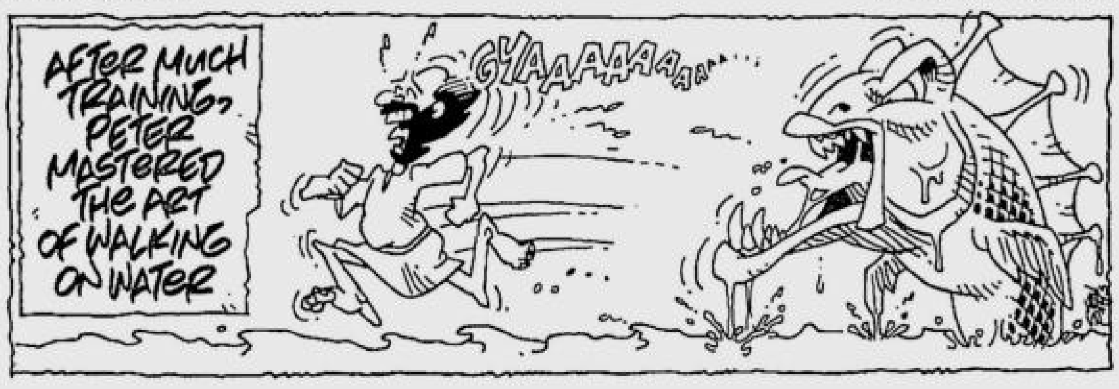
MUTTS

BY PATRICK McDONNELL


WHAT'S SO VALUABLE IN THIS HOUSE YOU'RE GUARDING, EARL!?!
WELL, MOOCH... THERE'S MY SUPPER DISH.
AAH— DON'T WORRY ABOUT THAT!
I CLEANED IT OUT HOURS AGO.
6-5

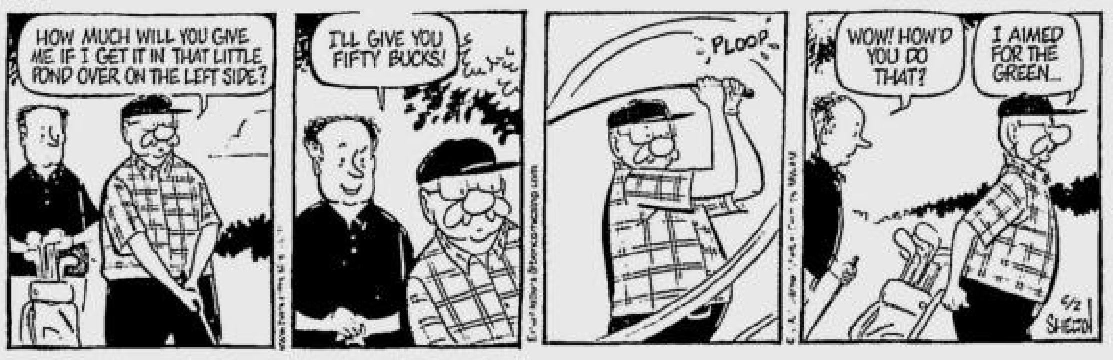
DIVINE COMEDY

BY STEVEN PABALINAS


AFTER MUCH TRAINING, PETER MASTERED THE ART OF WALKING ON WATER
GYAAAAAAAAA...

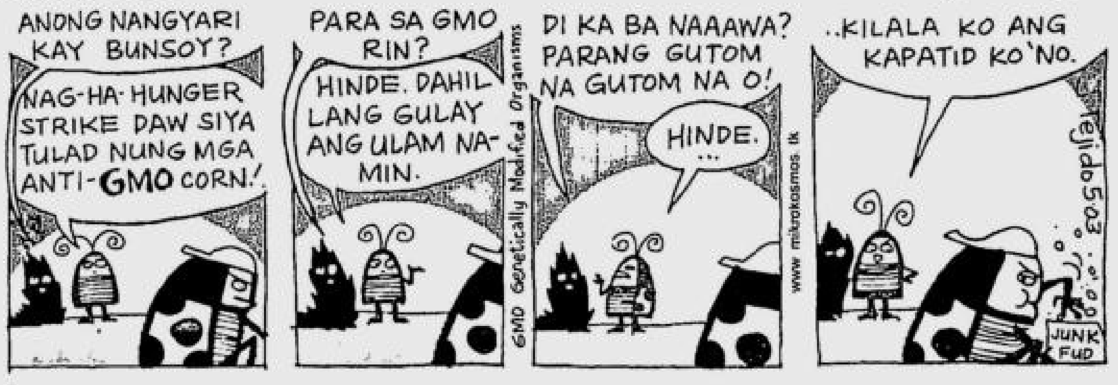
BEN

BY DANIEL SHELTON


HOW MUCH WILL YOU GIVE ME IF I GET IT IN THAT LITTLE POND OVER ON THE LEFT SIDE?
I'LL GIVE YOU FIFTY BUCKS!
PLOOP
WOW! HOW'D YOU DO THAT?
I AIMED FOR THE GREEN...
6/2 SHELTON

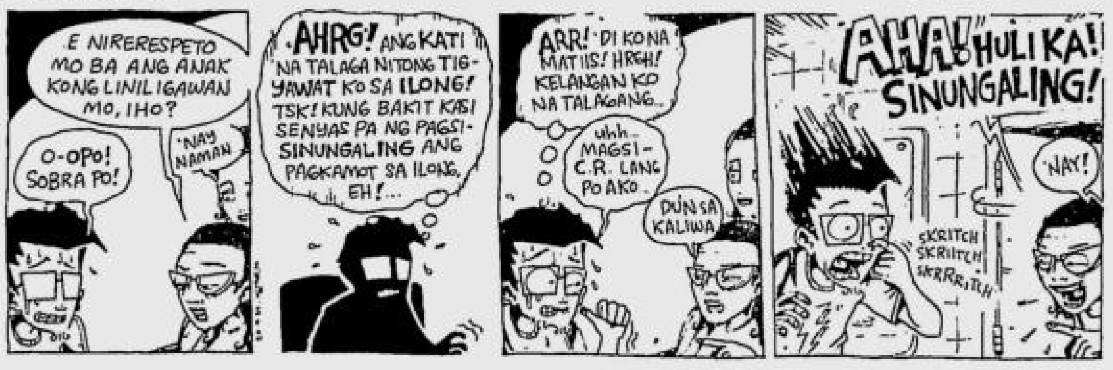
MIKROKOSMOS

BY JOMIKE TEJIDO


ANONG NANGYARI KAY BUNSOY?
NAG-HA-HUNGER STRIKE DAW SIYA TULAD NUNG MGA ANTI-GMO CORN!
PARA SA GMO RIN?
HINDE. DAHIL LANG GULAY ANG ULAM NAMIN.
GMO Genetically Modified Organisms
DI KA BA NAAAWA? PARANG GUTOM NA GUTOM NA O!
HINDE. ...
www.mikrokosmos.tk
..KILALA KO ANG KAPATID KO'NO.
tejido5.03
JUNK FUD

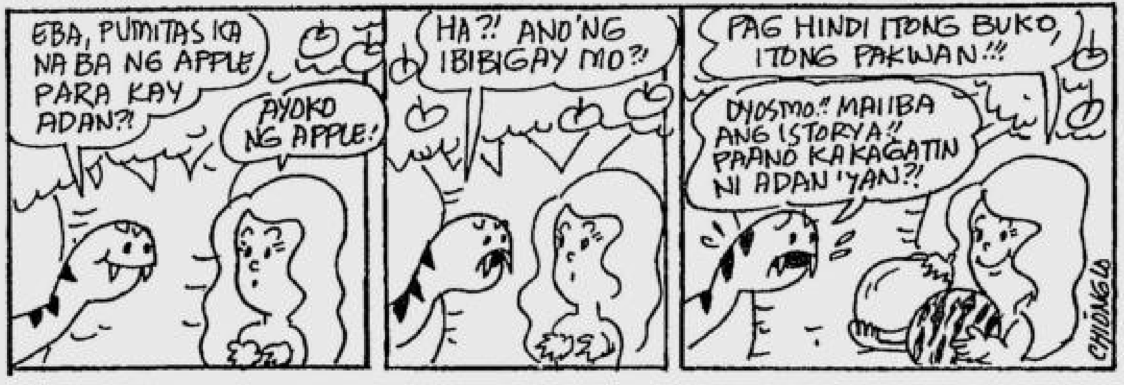
KIKO MACHINE

BY MANIX ABRERA


E NIRERESPETO MO BA ANG ANAK KONG LINILIGAWAN MO, IHO?
O-OPO! SOBRA PO!
'NAY NAMAN
AHRG! ANG KATI NA TALAGA NITONG TIGYAWAT KO SA ILONG! TSK! KUNG BAKIT KASI SENYAS PA NG PAGSISINUNGALING ANG PAGKAMOT SA ILONG, EH!...
ARR! DI KO NA MATIIS! HRGH! KELANGAN KO NA TALAGANG...
uhh.. MAGSI-C.R. LANG PO AKO..
DUN SA KALIWA
AHA! HULI KA! SINUNGALING!
'NAY!
SKRITCH SKRITCH SKRRRITCH

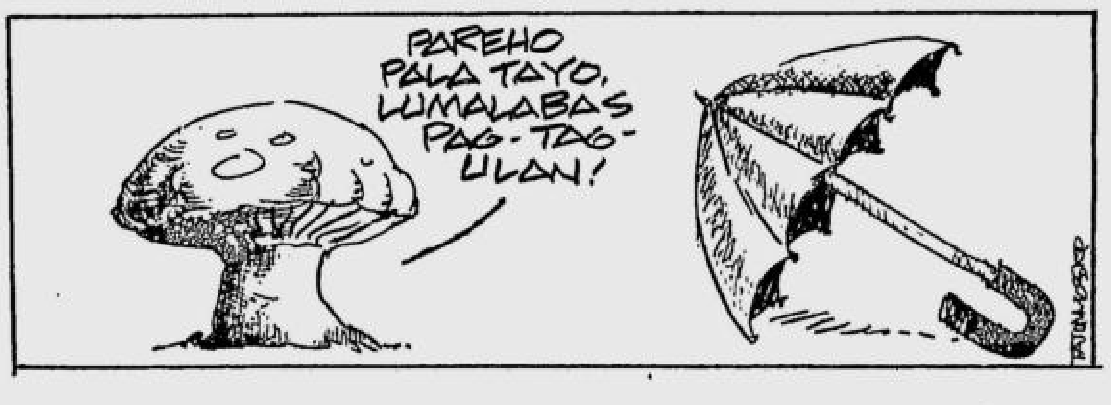
LOVEKNOTS

BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


EBA, PUMITAS KA NA BA NG APPLE PARA KAY ADAN?!
AYOKO NG APPLE!
HA?! ANO'NG IBIBIGAY MO?!
PAG HINDI ITONG BUKO, ITONG PAKWAN!!!
DYOSMO!! MAIIBA ANG ISTORYA!! PAANO KAKAGATIN NI ADAN 'YAN?!
CHIONGLO

TULDOK

BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING


PAREHO PALA TAYO, LUMALABAS PAG-TAG-ULAN!

Tours, Leisure & Chow

cmndamba@inquirer.com.ph
897-8808 local 209 and 238

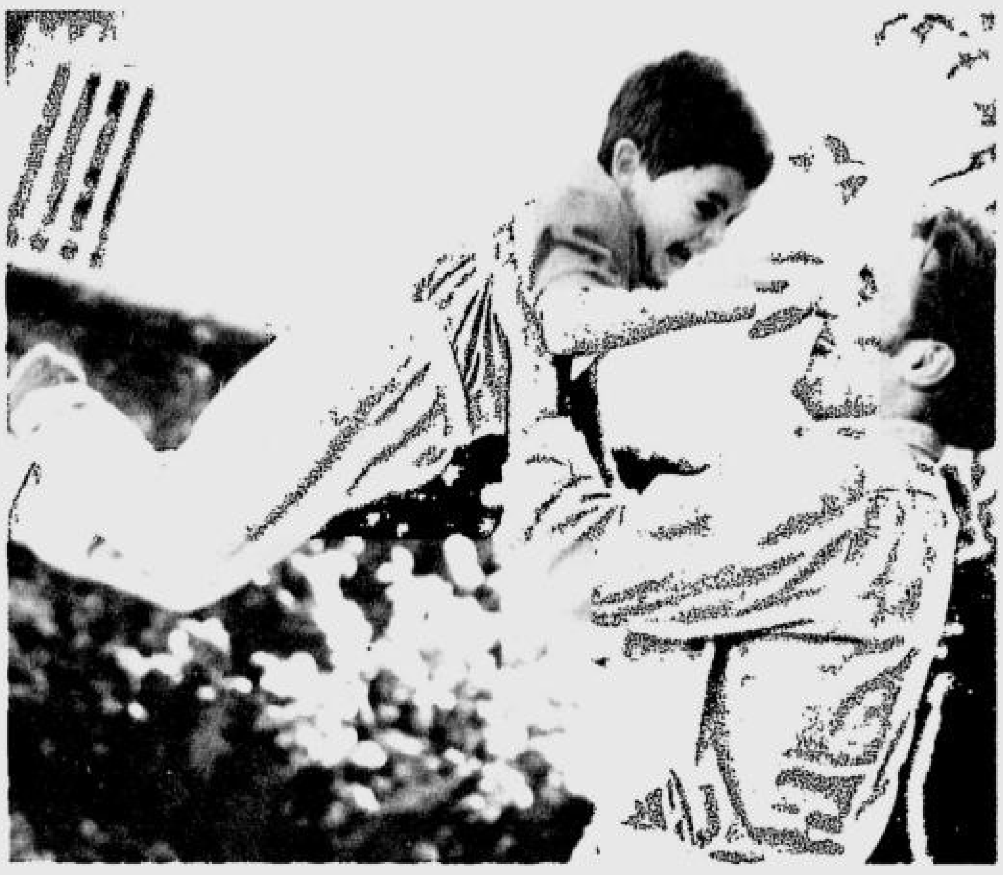
Alden Joshua Cedo, Graphics Design

Aries Espinosa, Editor

JAGUARS ON DISPLAY

Father's Day extravaganza at New World Renaissance Hotel

A selection of unique venues offers the finest in Filipino, Chinese or international cuisine



CELEBRATE Father's Day on Sunday, June 15 with style at the New World Renaissance Hotel, Makati City. A selection of unique venues offers the finest in Filipino, Chinese or international cuisine. Furthermore, check out sleek Jaguar cars on display at the hotel entrance from June 9 to 15. One can also choose from exquisite cigars on sale from Forth and Tay or sample a Vodka Cruiser. All fathers get a chance to win overnight accommodations at the hotel's Presidential Suite including breakfast served by a butler plus a special SPAromatherapy treatment.

Emperor Court, known for its fine Cantonese cuisine, offers lunch and dinner, buffet-style, including special "Shrimp-tation" dishes at P890+ per person. The ever-popular Coffee Shop offers a grand buffet for lunch and dinner with international as well as Filipino specialties that include "lechon", roast beef and turkey, at P890+. Bocarinos' contemporary approach to dining will tempt guests with its sumptuous lunch and dinner buffets that features an antipasto bar, French onion soup, an array of entrees such as prime rib, garoupa, lobster, osso buco, plus a tantalizing dessert selection, for P1,200++ per person .

Children will be delighted with the magical antics of Wizzo the Clown at the lobby from 12 noon to 2 p.m. Furthermore, children below 12 years who partake of the buffets get a 50-percent discount

For reservations, call 8116888. Lunch is from 11 a.m. to 2:30p.m.; dinner from 6 p.m. to 10:30 p.m.

Where to Stay Where to GO

A weekly directory of the country's best establishments

New World Renaissance Hotel
Esperanza St. cor. makati Ave., Makati City
Tel. 811-6888/Fax. 811-6777

Makati Shangri-La Hotel
Ayala Ave. cor. Makati Ave., Makati City
Tel. 813-8888/ Fax 813-5499

Dusit Hotel Nikko
Ayala Center, 1223 Makati City Phil.
Tel. 867-3333 Email: dusitmnl@dusit.com

Barcelo Hotels and Resorts
4/F Adamson Centre, 121 LP Leviste St.
Salcedo Village, Makati
Tel. (02) 867-1159/ fax (02) 867-1185

Mactan Island Resort
Punta Engano Road, Lapu Lapu Cebu
Tel. (632) 231-0288/Fax (632) 231-1688

Hotel Intercontinental
1 Ayala Avenue, Makati City
Tel 815-9711

The Marco Polo
CM Recto St. Davao City 8000
Tel. (082) 221-0888/fax (082) 225-0111

Hotel Veniz
No. 1 Abanao St. Baguio City
Tel. (074) 446-0700/fax (074) 446-0704

Hotel Supreme
113 Magsaysay Ave., Baguio City
Tel. (074) 443-2011 to 18 / Fax. (074) 442-2855

Skyrise Hotel
18 Dominican Road, Baguio City
Tel (074) 445-6834 to 36 /fax (074) 443-3897

The Peninsula Manila Hotel
Cor. Ayala Ave. & Makati Ave., Makati City
Tel. 810-3456/ Fax 815-4825

Makati Shangri-La Hotel
Ayala Ave. cor. Makati Ave., Makati City
Tel. 813-8888/ Fax 813-5499

The Bellevue Manila
North Bridgeway, Northgate
Cyberzone, Filinvest Corporate City,
Alabang, Muntinlupa
Tel. (632) 771-8181/ fax (632) 771-8282

Waterfront Hotel Lahug
1 Salinas Drive, Lahug Cebu City
Tel. (6332) 232-6888/Fax (6332)232-6880

Waterfront Hotel Mactan
1 Airport Road, Lapu Lapu City, 6015
Tel. (6332) 340-4888/fax (6332) 340-5693

Royal Mandaya Hotel
J. Palma Gil St. Davao City
Tel. (082) 225-8888/fax (082) 225-1888

Camp John Hay Manor
Loakan Road, Baguio City
Tel. (074) 446-0231 to 50/845-0892/845-0911
Fax. (074) 447-0494

Cooyeesan Hotel Plaza
Naguilian cor. Asin Road, Baguio City
Tel. (074) 447-8888 to 93/ (074) 447-8895 to 98
Fax. (074) 447-0494

Golden Pine Hotel and Restaurant
Intersection of Carino St. and Legarda
Road, Baguio City
Tel. (074)444-9965 to 72/740-8975/
Fax. (074) 446-0704

Taal Vista Hotel
Aguinaldo Highway, Tagaytay City
Tel. (046) 413-1000/fax. (046) 413-1225

For Feedback and inquiries, call
899-4426 or 897-8808 loc 209

Waterfront presents RJ and Friends

BABYBOOMERS! Brace yourselves as Waterfront presents the second part of "My Mommy Can Dance, My Daddy Can Rock n' Roll" on June 14, Saturday, 9 p.m. at the Grand Pacific Ballroom. Guaranteed to be a sure fire night of babyboomer nostalia with no less than musical legend Ramon Jacinto at the helm. Definitely a night of hard rocking n' rolling for daddy on the eve of Father's Day. The event is presented by Pepsi, Smart, Cebu Pacific, San Miguel Beer, Nestle Calcium Plus, Kaona Grill, RJ 100 FM, 103.5 Wild FM Cebu and Mom's Radio 88.3 Cebu.

Tickets are at P1,000 (inclusive of dinner at 7 p.m. and show). For reservations, call the Waterfront Cebu City at (032) 2326888 loc. 8117 or 8118. Tickets are also available at Kaona Grill (032) 2342865.

Kiddie Fun Treats at The Bellevue Hotel

THE BELLEVUE Hotel, the first and only business hotel south of Metro Manila, not only caters to CEOs and managers, it also welcomes kids of all ages. The Bellevue offers its Sunday Brunch and Kiddie Fun Treat promo at Café D' Asie, the hotel's Asian restaurant.

The whole family can have a hearty Sunday brunch buffet with bottomless iced tea from 10 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. for only P490+ each. Children five years and below are free of charge. An activity area with face painting, kiddie TV movies and other kiddie treats will bring joy to the little ones.

For reservations, call 771.81.81 local 8020.

People, Events & Products

Bits Clips

The Faithful concert

SOME of the country's best classical music talents will gather together at The Podium for The Faithful, a concert which will be on Friday, June 6 at 7:00 p.m. at the mall's second floor activity center. Presented by Musicworx, a Christian organization whose purpose is to share God's love through music, The Faithful is topbilled by tenor Nolyn Cabahug, violinist Junior Seraza, pianist Jupiter Vidad; and Musicworx talents Josh Villanueva, tenor; Evelyn Serata forte soprano; and Edith Verde and Ygloone Black mezzo sopranos. The Faithful's repertoire consists of a pleasant mix of classical, pop, Broadway, and contemporary Christian music such as To Where You Are, The Prayer, Tonight Medley, Love Changes Everything, The Love I Found In You, and The Faithful Medley. This glorious mix shows that no matter how different the music genres maybe, or how each lyric is expressed, music can be used to uplift, inspire and encourage. The Faithful with Nolyn Cabahug and Musicworx talents will be held at The Podium's second level activity center on June 6.

'Ten: the Bridal Event'

HAPPENING this June 6 to 8, (Friday to Sunday) is the much awaited "Ten: the Bridal Event", by The Wedding Store as it continues to celebrate its 10th year anniversary for 2003. In cooperation with the Shangri-La Plaza Mall, The Wedding Store will hold a three-day exhibit featuring over 50 wedding suppliers. This premier celebration is made possible through its partners: The Shangri-La Plaza, The Peninsula Manila, Lifestyle Network, Philippine Daily Inquirer, Bride & Home, Wedding At Work.com, 1816 Flowers and Event Styling, Maidenform, Pacific Island Services Inc., My Left Hand Graphics, Joey 92.3, Wave 89.1 and Vacation Club International. For inquiries, call The Wedding Store at tel. nos. 893-0534, 840-1897 or e-mail to giftcrft@pworld.net.ph

42k Laguna Marathon

THE FIRST and the biggest Laguna Marathon with a total of P300,000 cash prizes and trophies to be given away organized by San Pedro Team Unified Sports Association of San Pedro, Laguna (Sptusa) gets underway on June 8 with 42 kms. distance passing the eight key towns of Laguna. The marathon is a part of the sports program initiated by Gov. Ningning Lazaro; Dennis Lazaro - head of Provincial Board in Games and Development Office; Louie Mangahis - overall chair of Laguna Marathon and Sports Advisers, lawyer Melvin Matibag and Vic Sanchez. Registration is now ongoing, interested participants may call Sptusa president Jing Anchoriz at tel. no. 868-7588; 0919-2737467 or Abet Alon-Alon at 0920-2862195.

Vivacious Hang out Party

Partygoers were recently treated to a series of hot and fun techno-pop parties around the metropolis hosted by the lifestyle mineral water, Vival. Dubbed as 'Vivacious Hang Out Party', the gigs included fashion shows that showcased what's 'in' in edgy fashion from Levi's and Dockers. Watch out for Vival's culminating parties at Eastwood City Walk in Quezon City on June 6 and at The Village in Cebu on June 14.

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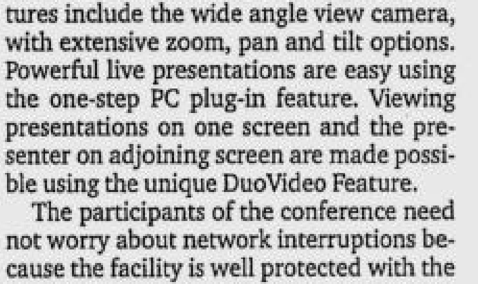
Intercontinental Manila's Video Conferencing Facilities offer State of the Art and modern equipment . The unit is Tandberg 2500 with a transmission speed of upto 384 kbps on ISDN powered by Globe Telecom. Upto four video sites and 1 audio site can be hooked up using the embedded multiSite functionality. Also, Special features include the wide angle view camera, with extensive zoom, pan and tilt options. Powerful live presentations are easy using the one-step PC plug-in feature. Viewing presentations on one screen and the presenter on adjoining screen are made possible using the unique DuoVideo Feature.

The participants of the conference need not worry about network interruptions because the facility is well protected with the automatic downspeeding feature that prevents such from happening.

For inquiries and reservations, please contact Sales and Marketing through (02)815-9711.

Dusit's Drink of the Month

TAKE a sip of "Mambo Tropicale", Dusit Hotel Nikko's drink of the month for June. a concoction of Tequila and tropical fruits such as mango, orange and pineapple."Mambo Tropicale" is available in all Dusit Hotel Nikko's F&B outlets for only P140.00++ per drink.



LES CLEFS D'OR'S NEW PHILIPPINE MEMBER

Recently, InterContinental Manila concierge Jordan Ongtangco received his Les Clefs d'Or pin from hotel General Manager Stefan Voogel. Ongtangco was recently admitted as a member to the prestigious association of hotel concierges. The Paris-based association has a membership of 5,000 from hotels around the world of which 42 are from the Philippines. Also present is the Intercon head concierge Andy Pongco, who is currently the president of Les Clefs d'Or Philippines and second vice-president worldwide. The Philippines will host the association's annual meeting in January 2005.

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

ALL DIGITAL SOUND

AYALA CINEMAS

PRESENTS

G1 GLORIETTA 1

1 PAKNERS
2 ANG TANGING INA
3 BRUCE ALMIGHTY
4 ANG TANGING INA

G4 GLORIETTA 4

HOW TO LOSE A GUY IN 10 DAYS
2 BRUCE ALMIGHTY
THX GUARANTEED SEATS THE MATRIX RELOADED 11:40, 1:50, 4:00, 6:10, 8:20, 10:30
WHO IS CLETIS TOUT?
5 THE REAL CANCUN
6 ANG TANGING INA
7 DARKNESS FALLS

GB1 GREENBELT 1

ArtFilm
WHO IS CLETIS TOUT? 11:30
2 BRUCE ALMIGHTY 11:55, 2:00, 4:05, 6:10, 8:15
CARDINAL UNPLUGGED AN ACOUSTIC ROCK CONCERT June 13 - 8pm

GB3 GREENBELT 3

THX GUARANTEED SEATS 1 THE MATRIX RELOADED 12:40, 3:15, 5:50, 7:00, 9:10, 11:20
THX GUARANTEED SEATS 2 BRUCE ALMIGHTY 12:55, 3:00, 5:05, 7:10, 9:15, 11:20
GUARANTEED SEATS 3 HOW TO LOSE A GUY IN 10 DAYS 1:50, 4:15, 6:40, 9:05, 11:30
GUARANTEED SEATS 4 DARKNESS FALLS 1:05, 3:10, 5:15, 7:20, 9:25, 11:30
GUARANTEED SEATS 5 ANG TANGING INA 1:30, 3:50, 6:10, 8:30, 10:50

ATC ALABANG TOWN CENTER

THX 1 BRUCE ALMIGHTY
2 AGENT CODY BANKS
3 ANG TANGING INA
4 DARKNESS FALLS
5 THE MATRIX RELOADED

For sreening times, call 729-7777. Movies are subject to change without prior notice. Reserve your seats by texting **SURESEATS GB3** or **SURESEATS G4** and send to 2333. Or log on to www.sureseats.com for web-reservations.

MMTA

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MOVIE GUIDE

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1 (DOLBY) FRIDA
2 (SDDS) BRUCE ALMIGHTY
3 (DTS) THE MATRIX RELOADED
4 (GOLD) HOW TO LOSE A GUY IN 10 DAYS
5 (GOLD/DOLBY EX) AGENT CODY BANKS
6 (GOLD/SDDS) ANG TANGING INA
7 (GOLD/DOLBY EX) BRUCE ALMIGHTY
8 ANG TANGING INA
9 ANG TANGING INA
10 PAKNER

Pearl Plaza Cinemas

(Parañaque) tel. 853.4486

1 RESERVE
2 RESERVE
3 (DTS) RESERVE
4 RESERVE
5 RESERVE
6 (DTS) RESERVE
Golden Pearl THX RESERVE

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1 ANG TANGING INA
2 BRUCE ALMIGHTY
3 PAKNER

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(Mandaluyong) tel 724.4986

1 ANG TANGING INA
2 PAKNER
3 BRUCE ALMIGHTY
4 (DOLBY DIGITAL EX) THE MATRIX RELOADED
5 KAPIT BAHAY

METROPOLIS star

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1 THE MATRIX RELOADED
2 DAYO
3 PAKNER
4 ANG TANGING INA
5 KAPIT BAHAY
6 BRUCE ALMIGHTY

M star

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1 THE MATRIX RELOADED
2 ANG TANGING INA

PREMIERE CINEMA THX

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Center Plaza Cinema

(Balanga, Bataan) tel (047) 237.7007

1 WALANG KAPALIT
2 X- MEN-2

FCM FAIRVIEW CENTER MALL INC

tel 930.9515

1
2 ANG TANGING INA
3

Sunshine

(FTI, Taguig) tel 838.4301 loc. 3376

1 BRUCE ALMIGHTY
2 PAKNER
3 ANG TANGING INA
4 KAPIT BAHAY

GOTESCO CINEMAS

Gotesco City

(Manila) tel 734.8588

1 (SDDS) THE MATRIX RELOADED
4 KAPIT BAHAY
5 PAKNER
6 ANG TANGING INA
7 (DTS) AGENT CODY BANKS
8 (SDDS) BRUCE ALMIGHTY
9 (DOLBY) FRIDA

Gotesco Caloocan

tel 362.3508

2 RESERVE

Gotesco Grand Central

(Caloocan) tel 365.7928

1 KAPIT BAHAY
2 PAKNER
3 ANG TANGING INA
4 (SDDS) BRUCE ALMIGHTY
5 PAKNER
6 (DOLBY) ANG TANGING INA
7 (DTS) THE MATRIX RELOADED
8 FRIDA
9 AGENT CODY BANKS

Gotesco Commonwealth

tel 951.0082

1 AGENT CODY BANKS
2 (SDDS) ANG TANGING INA
3 (DTS) PAKNER
4 (DOLBY) BRUCE ALMIGHTY
5 KAPIT BAHAY

Gotesco Ortigas

tel 656.6795

1 PAKNER
2 ANG TANGING INA
3 (DTS) AGENT CODY BANKS
4 KAPIT BAHAY
5 (SDDS) BRUCE ALMIGHTY

Universal

(Manila) tel 733.2470

1 PAKNER

Sampaguita

(Cubao) tel 911.7888

1 PAKNER

Dilson

(Manila) tel 734.7724

Dilson SEX & ZEN
Lords KAPIT BAHAY
Jennet RESERVE

MARKETPLACE Mandaluyong

tel 533.3851 / 533.3856

1 ANG TANGING INA
2 PAKNER
3 AGENT CODY BANKS
4 BRUCE ALMIGHTY

Isetann Cinerama Complex Recto SUPER CINERAMA

tel 733.4238

1 (DOLBY) BRUCE ALMIGHTY
2 ANG TANGING INA
3 KAPIT BAHAY
4 PAKNER
5 AGENT CODY BANKS

FRC Cinema

(Talaba Bacoor Cavite)

1
2

Berma Cinema

(Baclaran) tel 879.2030 - 879.2029

1 PAKNER
2 ANG TANGING INA

THE CENTER OF ENTERTAINMENT Araneta

MALL CINEPLEX 7

tel 911.3101 loc. 821.8242.8400

1 PAKNERS
2 TANGING INA
3 (DOLBY DIGITAL) BRUCE ALMIGHTY
4 (SDDS) DARKNESS FALLS
5 (DTS) REAL CANCUN
6 BIGAY HILIG
7 MATRIX RELOADFD

FarmersPlaza CINEMAS

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1 CLOSED
2 CLOSED

CINEMA 2000

Cinema 2000 Target Mall

(Sta. Rosa Laguna)
TEL. (049) 837-0926

1 BRUCE ALMIGHTY
2 PAKNER
3 (DTS) ANG TANGING INA

Cinema 2000 Waltermart

(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7383

1 PAKNER
2 (DTS) ANG TANGING INA
3 (DOLBY) THE MATRIX RELOADED
4 BRUCE ALMIGHTY

Cinema 2000 Pavilion Mall

(Biñan) tel (049) 411.1146

1 ANG TANGING INA
2 (DOLBY) BRUCE ALMIGHTY
3 (DTS) AGENT CODY BANKS
4 PAKNER

Cinema 2000 Cinemagix

(Urdaneta) tel(075) 568.6771

1 JOHNNY ENGLISH
2 ANG TANGING INA
3 (DOLBY) THE MATRIX RELOADED
4

Cinema 2000 MetroTown

(Tarlac) tel(045) 982.1729

1 ANG TANGING INA
2 PAKNER
3 (DOLBY) WHAT A GIRL WANTS
4 THE MATRIX RELOADED

Magic Star Cinema

(Tarlac City) tel (045) 611.4305

1 (DOLBY) THE MATRIX RELOADED
2 (DTS) PAKNER
3 ANG TANGING INA

Lianas Cinema

(Alabang) tel 850.1276

1 (SDDS) KAULAYAW
2 PAKNER
3 (DTS) ANG TANGING INA
4 KAPIT BAHAY

Lianas MovieCity

(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7202

1 (DOLBY) BRUCE ALMIGHTY
2 PAKNER
3 (DTS) THE MATRIX RELOADED
4 ANG TANGING INA
5 AGENT CODY BANKS

Olivarez Tri-Cinema

(Biñan) tel (049) 511.8883

1 AGENT CODY BANKS
2 ANG TANGING INA
3 PAKNER

Olivarez Los Baños

tel (049) 249.2558

1 AGENT CODY BANKS
2 ANG TANGING INA
3 PAKNER

Mega Center Mall

(Cabanatuan City) tel (044) 463.3283

1 ANGER MANAGEMENT
2 ANG TANGING INA
3 (DTS) PAKNER
4 THE MATRIX RELOADED

Cabuyao

(Laguna City) tel (049) 531.4808

1 (DTS)
2 (DTS)

Emperor

(Rosario Cavite) tel (046) 438.1657

1 ANG TANGING INA
2 BAYARAN
3 RESERVE

Fiesta World Mall

(Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790

1 DAYO!
2 WHAT A GIRL WANTS
3 ANG TANGING INA
4 THE MATRIX RELOADED

Jade Cinema

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3 BRUCE ALMIGHTY
4 WHAT A GIRL WANTS

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8 PAKNERS
9 DARKNESS FALLS
10 THE VERDICT

SM CITY FAIRVIEW

9350749

1 ANG KAPITBAHAY
2 BRUCE ALMIGHTY
3 FRIDA
4 THE MATRIX RELOADED
5 PAKNERS
6 ANG TANGING INA
7 DARKNESS FALLS
8 BIGAY HILIG
9 ANG TANGING INA
10 THE VERDICT
11 HOW TO LOSE A GUY...
12 THE REAL CANCUN

SM CITY MANILA

5239240

1 HOW TO LOSE A GUY...
2 DARKNESS FALLS
3 RING 0
4 BRUCE ALMIGHTY
5 AGENT CODY BANKS
6 THE MATRIX RELOADED
7 BIGAY HILIG
8 THE REAL CANCUN
9 ANG TANGING INA
10 THE VERDICT
11 PAKNERS
12 ANG TANGING INA

SM MEGAMALL

6331901 • 6329401

1 BRUCE ALMIGHTY
2 HOW TO LOSE A GUY ...
3 THE MATRIX RELOADED
4 BRUCE ALMIGHTY
5 THE REAL CANCUN
6 FRIDA
7 THE VERDICT
8 ANG TANGING INA
9 ANG TANGING INA
10 DARKNESS FALLS
11 PAKNERS
12 BIGAY HILIG

SM CITY NORTH EDSA

9295452

1 THE MATRIX RELOADED
2 ANG TANGING INA
3 THE REAL CANCUN
4 ANG TANGING INA
5 PAKNERS
6 THE VERDICT
7 DARKNESS FALLS
8 BRUCE ALMIGHTY

SM SOUTHMALL

8098888

1 THE REAL CANCUN
2 HOW TO LOSE A GUY...
3 THE MATRIX RELOADED
4 BRUCE ALMIGHTY
5 ANG TANGING INA
6 KAPITBAHAY
7 ANG TANGING INA
8 DARKNESS FALLS
9 PAKNERS
10 BIGAY HILIG

SM CITY CEBU

2313876

1 THE MATRIX RELOADED
2 BRUCE ALMIGHTY
3 A MAN APART
4 WHAT A GIRL WANTS
5 RING 0
6 DAYO
7 ANG TANGING INA
8 SO CLOSE

SM CITY ILOILO

3209422

1 WILLARD
2 CLOSED
3 WHAT A GIRL WANTS
4 BRUCE ALMIGHTY
5 SO CLOSE
6 ANG TANGING INA
7 CLOSED
8 SOULKEEPER

SM CITY PAMPANGA

7128015

1 ANG TANGING INA
2 BRUCE ALMIGHTY
3 ANG TANGING INA
4 AGENT CODY BANKS
5 DARKNESS FALLS
6 PAKNERS

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8294975

1 BIGAY HILIG
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3 ANG TANGING INA
4 PAKNERS

SM CINEMA TUTUBAN

2514302

1 BRUCE ALMIGHTY
2 PAKNERS
3 ANG TANGING INA
4 BIGAY HILIG

SM CITY DAVAO

2976998

1 A MAN APART
2 PHONEBOOTH
3 ANG TANGING INA
4 BRUCE ALMIGHTY
5 WHAT A GIRL WANTS
6 SO CLOSE

SM BICUTAN

776-3055

1 ANG TANGING INA
2 BIGAY HILIG
3 PAKNERS
4 BRUCE ALMIGHTY

SM CITY CAGAYAN DE ORO

859-2884

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2 ANG TANGING INA
3 RING 0
4 BRUCE ALMIGHTY

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633-8976

1 DARKNESS FALLS
11:05 MF/1:00/3:00/5:05/7:00/9:00/
10:35 LFS/11:00 LMF/12:35 END

2 BRUCE ALMIGHTY
11:40 FS/12:10 MF/2:20/4:30/6:40/8:50/
10:30 LFS/11:00 LMF/12:40 END

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6 DARKNESS FALLS
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7 DARKNESS FALLS

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8 BIGAY HILIG

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3 AGENT CODY BANKS
4 ANG TANGING INA
5 BRUCE ALMIGHTY
6 DARKNESS FALLS

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2 REAL CANCUN
3 PAKNERS
4 BRUCE ALMIGHTY
5 BIGAY HILIG
6 ANG TANGING INA

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3 ANG TANGING INA
4 KIKAY
5 PAKNERS

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2 ANG TANGING INA
3 SO CLOSE
4 PHONEBOOTH
5 RING 0
6 CONFESSIONS OF A DANGEROUS MIND

Iloilo

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2 WILLARD
3 WHAT A GIRL WANTS
4 SOUL KEEPER
5 TANGING INA
6 SO CLOSE

MOVIES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE.

Stars shouldn't be threatened by criticism

DOLLY WOOD

Dolly Ann Carvajal

I PROMISED in my previous column that I would air the side of **Rica Peralejo's** mom regarding the comment of **Pilar Mateo** (a writer friend of **Bojo Molina** and mine) in my earlier column that **Mrs. Peralejo** should stop bugging Bojo now that he's married.

Unfortunately, our schedules don't seem to jive. When I called Mrs. Peralejo, she was out of town and the cell phone signal was weak. When she returned my call, I was in the middle of a shoot.

She texted me that Rica has never been busier so there's no truth to Pilar's observation that her daughter is not visible anymore.

If it's any consolation, Mrs. Peralejo should look at the issue from a different angle. That's what I do when I come across unsavory remarks about me. I don't put too much weight on what has been written but more on how it is written.

Almost every star was once a starlet so Mrs. Peralejo should be secure with the thought that Rica has made a name for herself and starred in hit movies after reinventing herself from a teenage star to a sexy siren.

Why be threatened by criticisms if you know for sure where you stand?

Show biz would be a better world if all show biz folk, instead of bickering, would just try to keep improving their craft.

Give her respect

ALL the drivel circulating about Sen. **Kiko Pangilinan** and **Sharon Cuneta's** marriage being on the rocks is nothing more than a smear campaign.

Sharon, who has been through one failed marriage, is the type who would do everything humanly possible for a friend, much more for her husband and kids. The megastar is at an enviable level where she has transcended petty intrigues. Knowing her, she would just shrug off the issue. She and Kiko are too happy to be affected by such inane talk.

Let's go easy on Shawie. She has spent almost half her life entertaining us and warming our hearts. The least we could do is give her the respect an icon like her deserves. Leave the cheap gimmicks to the wannabes and has-beens.

Tintin & Julius on radio

TINTIN Bersola is overjoyed about her latest project with her fiancé **Julius Babao.** After hosting several talk shows together, the couple has now ventured into radio.

"Doing radio gives me an adrenaline rush," says Tintin. "Our program is called 'Magandang Morning with Julius & Tintin.' It's aired every Saturday and Sunday, 6-8 a.m., on DZMM. *Kaya* every morning *ganadong ganado ako.* It perks me up for the long day ahead. And the best part is I can do radio without having to really dress up, and with no make-up on unlike on TV."

Tintin and Julius are living proof that lovers can not only be friends but co-workers as well.

Van Heusen in RP

THE NO. 1 shirt brand in the world, Van Heusen, is finally in the Philippines. On Friday, June 7, VH will have a star-studded grand opening and launch of its flagship store on the second level of Shangri-la Mall. Come and ogle at the gorgeous V.H. models with me. Catch you at the Shang!

Personal

HAPPY Birthday to my best friend and *tita* **Bebot Santos.** Thanks for pampering me more than I deserve! Luv yah!!

For feedback, e-mail friends_at_dsquare@yahoo.com

The gift and challenge of free will

From page A30

Bruce knows it, she's walked out on him–for keeps.

This is when Bruce totally loses it, blames God for his miserable life, and God feels he has to teach this peevish man a lesson he won't forget. Strangely, he does so by temporarily giving Bruce divine powers.

Predictably enough, Bruce uses his newfound strengths to benefit himself. When God (played by **Morgan Freeman**) reminds him that there are more than 6 billion other people out there in need of his love and help, Bruce reacts lazily and unselectively, by granting everybody's wishes.

At first, that makes everybody happy–until all those answered prayers clash with, contradict and eventually cancel each other out. Like the hundreds of thousands of people who pray that they'll win the next lottery and end up with only $17 each in "winnings"!

They're so outraged by this that they run riot through the city streets, prompting the real Deity to step in and clean up the mess Bruce has created.

Does Bruce learn his lesson? He does. Even in the case of his girlfriend, he no longer prays that she goes back to him, only that she finds happiness in the arms of a man far better than he can hope to be.

The film also reminds viewers of the great gift and challenge of free will. God could easily have programmed man to be completely obedient to His dictates. Instead, He's paid man the supreme compliment of allowing him to decide for himself whether to be good or bad.

We often take this for granted, but the film shows our free will, which distinguishes us from God's other creatures and makes us truly human. But the gift is also a challenge, because it makes living more difficult than if we were programmed to automatically do and live well.

"Bruce Almighty" is viewable for its funny scenes and telling insights.

Truth to tell, it sometimes feels thin and Carrey's performance is too broadly comic to be truly empathetic, but this movie's heart is basically in the right place, and that's good enough for us.

DID YOU KNOW...

Last Friday, Armani at the Glorietta was a busy place. First came comedy king **Dolphy,** who bought two jackets and said with a smile that they were his gifts to partner **Zsa-Zsa Padilla.** Later in the day came singer and restaurant owner **Franco Laurel,** who admitted to a friend that he was "obsessed" with Armani clothes, particularly with the pants. When it came time to pay for his purchases, the princely Franco asked for his wallet from a bodyguard, said an eyewitness.

Ogie Alcasid's 15 songs for 15 years

SHOW TIME

OGIE Alcasid's new album, "Mga Kuwento ng Pag-ibig," will be launched on "S.O.P." on GMA 7 on Sunday, June 8.

The album marks Ogie's 15th year in the business and contains 15 songs, one song for each of his 15 years. All songs are in Filipino and were composed by Ogie himself.

"After 15 years in the business, I've learned that there is no end to learning something new about your craft, be it singing or songwriting," says the singer and hitmaker. "There is always something new. And there is always someone who is better than you out there."

"Mga Kuwento ng Pag-ibig," from the Giant Label of Viva Records, is available in CD and cassette format.

The Ayala Malls Events
AYALA CENTER Glorietta & Greenbelt
ALABANG TOWN
AYALA CENTER CEBU

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AYALA CENTER
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ALABANG TOWN CENTER
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Father's Day Treats at Food Choices at the Town – Free iced tea refill at any Food Choices establishment for every P100 food purchase.

AYALA CEBU
Instant Win Promo – Free bottle of wine for the first 300 shoppers per day from June 13-15 who can present P1,000 worth of receipt from any Ayala Center Cebu's stores (except Metro Ayala).

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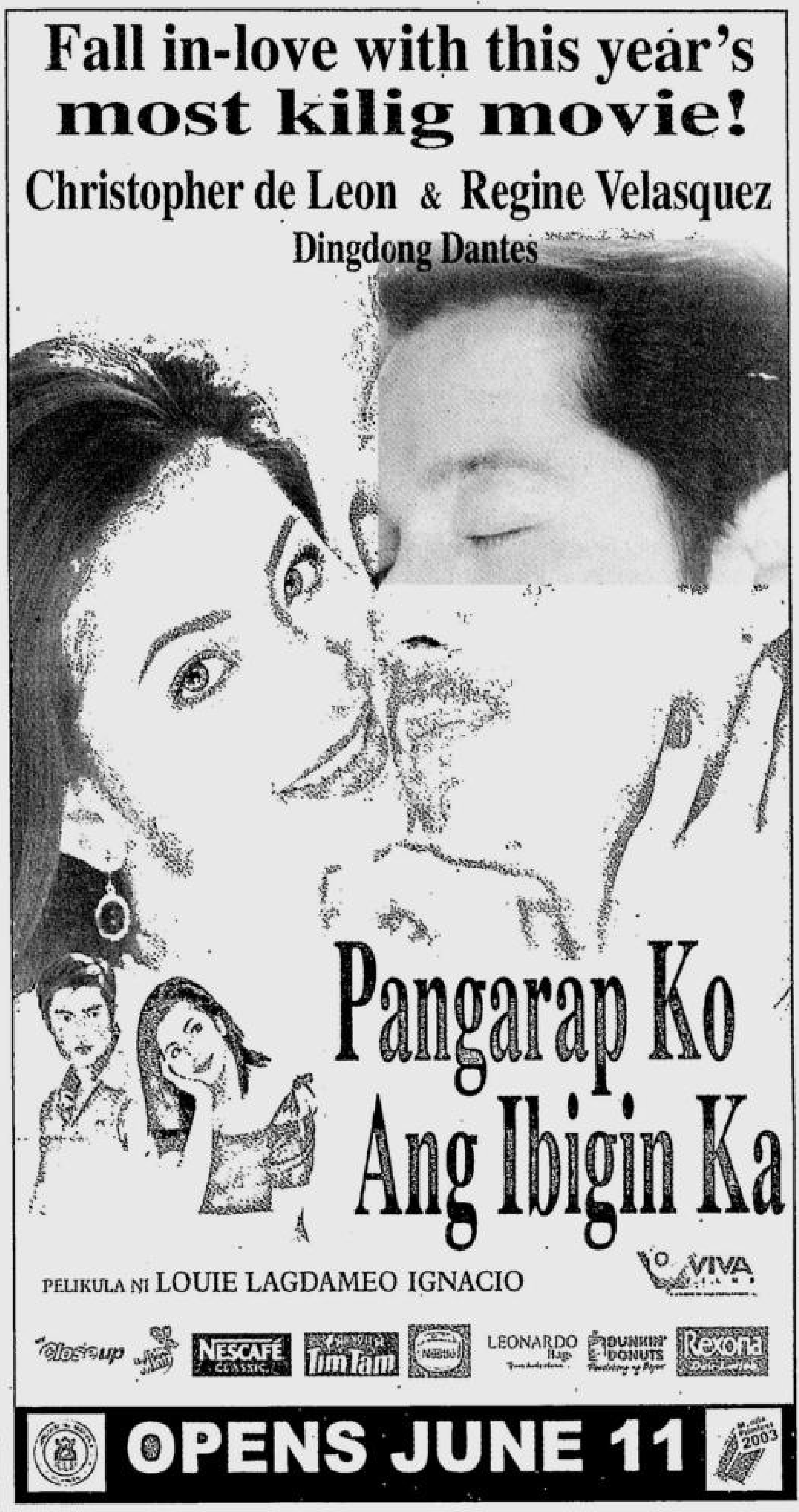

Fall in-love with this year's most kilig movie!
Christopher de Leon & Regine Velasquez
Dingdong Dantes
Pangarap Ko Ang Ibigin Ka
PELIKULA NI LOUIE LAGDAMEO IGNACIO
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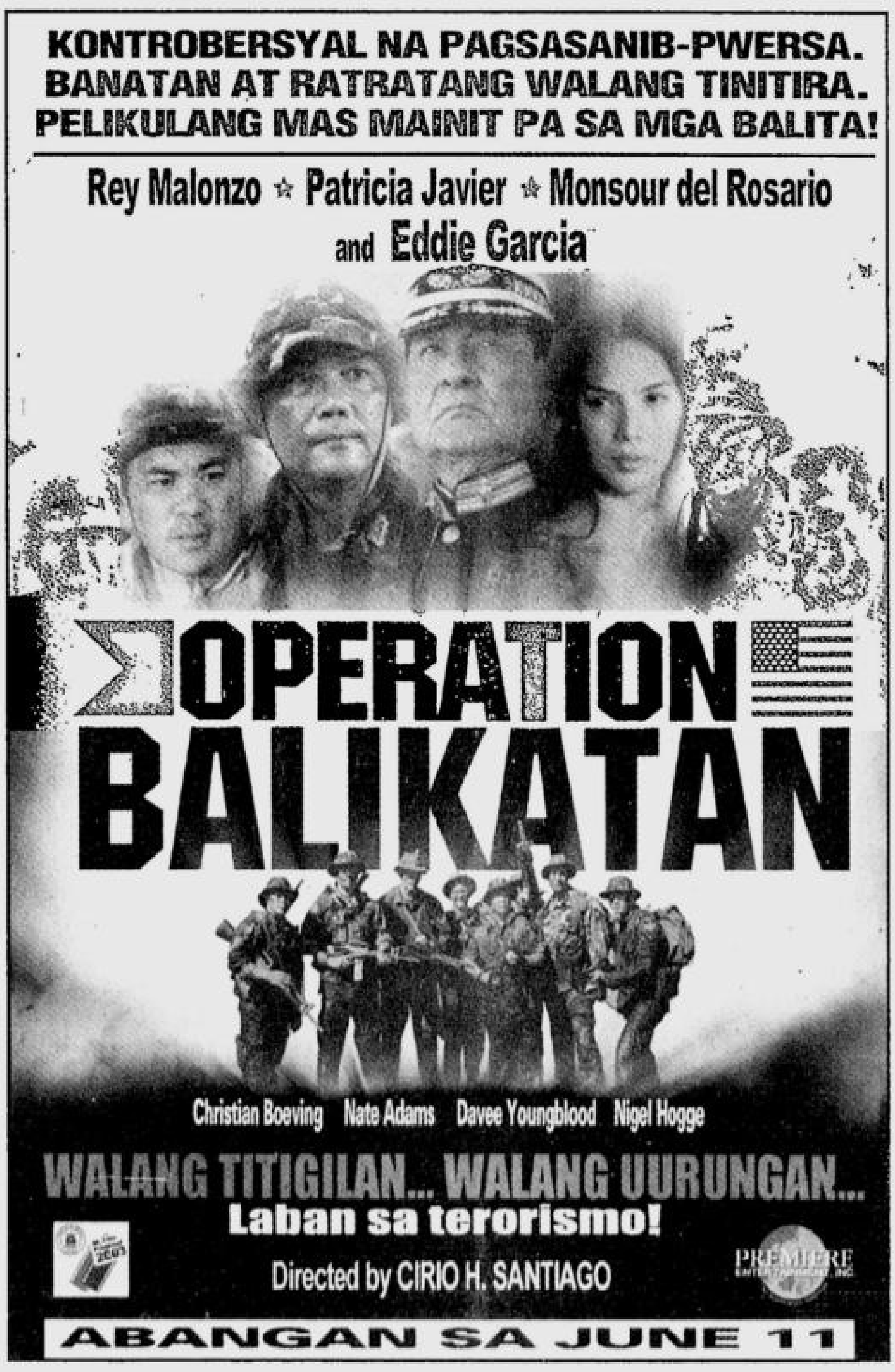
OPENS JUNE 11



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PELIKULANG MAS MAINIT PA SA MGA BALITA!
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WALANG TITIGILAN... WALANG UURUNGAN...
Laban sa terorismo!
Directed by CIRIO H. SANTIAGO
PREMIERE
ABANGAN SA JUNE 11

KAILAN KA HULING SUMAMBA NG BIRHEN?
ang huling birhen sa lupa
ARA at MAUI
TALAGANG MAGKAKASALA KA!
DIRECTED BY JOEL C. LAMANGAN DGPI
NEO
OFFICIAL ENTRY TO THE MANILA FILM FESTIVAL
OPENS JUNE 11

ENTERTAINMENT

E-mail: pr_entertainment@inquirer.com.ph

Editor Louie C. Camino

Raymart: I'll marry Claudine within 2 years

By Leah Salterio

RAYMART Santiago wants to marry Claudine Barretto, his girlfriend of almost six months, within the next two years.

He also wants them to marry on a July 20, which is the birthday of both stars

"Para tipid," joked Raymart, who is turning 30 this July. "Sayang ang mga lobo."

Claudine will turn 24 on the same day.

Raymart admitted to INQUIRER Entertainment that he has not proposed marriage to Claudine, although they have been discussing settling down since they became sweethearts in November 2002.

"I hope it's really going to be Claudine because I want her to be the mother of my kids," Raymart said. "I want to have only two kids."

Raymart recently gave Claudine a diamond ring, but he stressed that it was not an engagement ring.

Last year, he bought a house in Quezon City. He is still paying for it up to now, he said.

"I want the house to be fully paid for before I settle down," he said.

Raymart said he wants a traditional church ceremony.

He said he has learned a lot by being with Claudine.

"She taught me how to pray the rosary everyday," he said. "Lately, by the time I leave the house, I would have prayed the rosary."

Claudine once said in a TV interview that "Raymart is the best thing that ever happened to me." She is very close to Raymart's family. Raymart's mom Cielito Legaspi calls her "*anak*."

Raymart said he would not ask Claudine to quit show biz even after they marry.

"*Ako ang hihinto, siya ang magta-trabaho*," he joked again.

He said the sexiest girl for him "has got to be Claudine. I don't look at other girls anymore."

Raymart talked about his plans to marry Claudine even as he faced robbery charges filed by the driver of a truck that hit the actor's Expedition recently.

Truck driver Frederick Lorenzana, of Novaliches, Quezon City, alleged that Raymart forced him to surrender his professional driver's license. He said he had kept P1,500 in the jacket of the driver's license.

Raymart shrugged off the complaint.

"He even accused me of beating him up when I only pushed him," Raymart said. "Now, he's accusing me of stealing his money. Why would I steal P1,500?"

Raymart admits he lost his cool and pushed the truck driver when Claudine cried after the accident.

"I never make Claudine cry, 'so I got mad when she cried because she got scared," Raymart said.

Lorenzana said he was driving the truck last May 13 when, at 11:45 p.m., he accidentally hit Santiago's Expedition van on Katipunan Avenue in front of Miriam College in Loyola Heights, Quezon City.

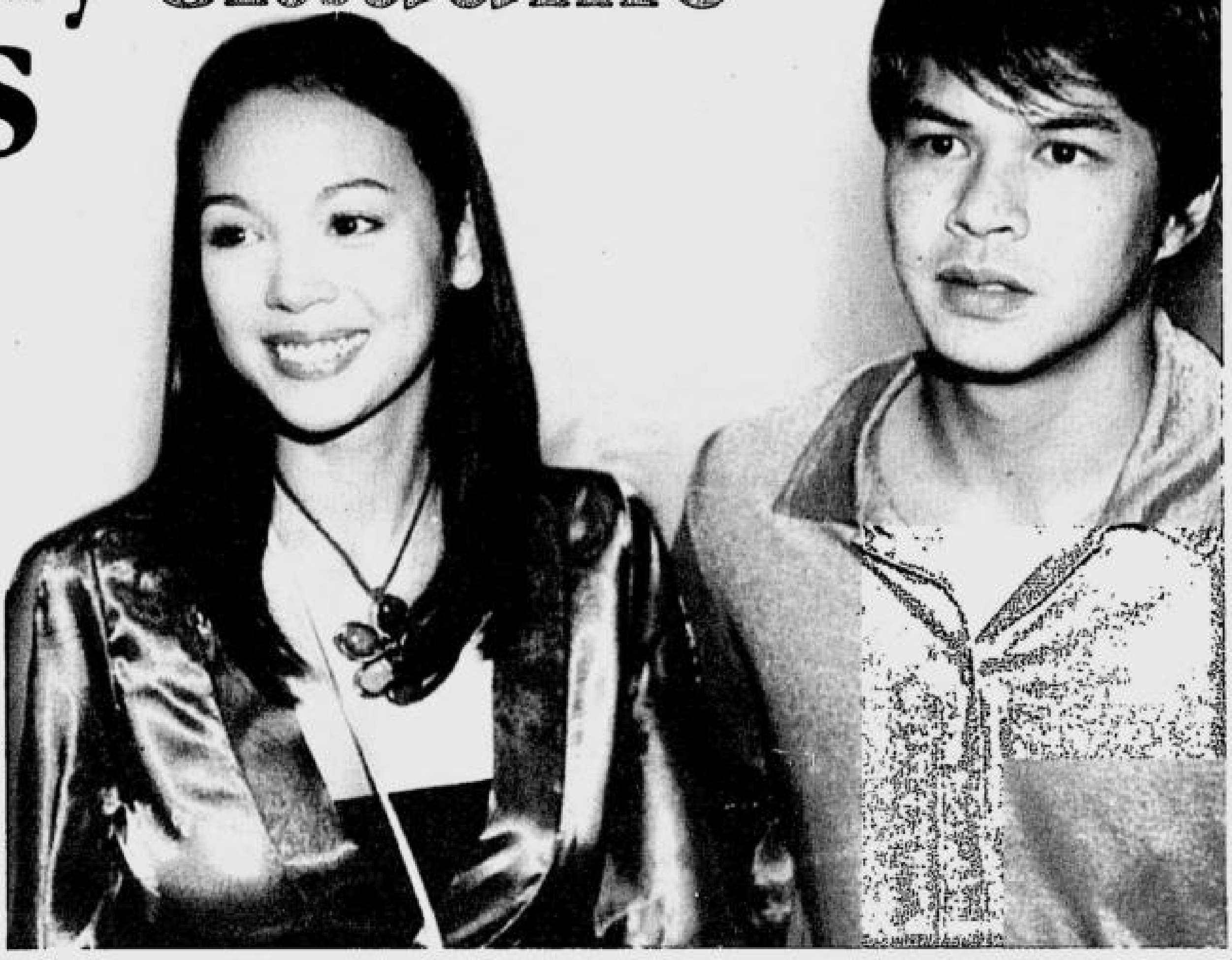
Raymart said he and Claudine don't often have the time to go out because of their busy schedules in show business. But when they do get the chance, they like to watch movies, often at Greenhills Theater, which is near their houses.

Raymart tapes on Mondays and Fridays for the new GMA 7 soap, "Narito Ako."

"I accepted the role in a soap for a change," he said. "This is the first time I'm doing a soap."

On Wednesdays, he tapes for the GMA 7 sitcom, "Kool Ka Lang," which is now on its fifth year.

"Kool Ka Lang," which also stars Parañaque Mayor Joey Marquez, Jomari Yllana and Benjie Paras, recently added more members to its cast–sexy stars Maui Taylor and Alessandra de Rossi, and TV news reporter Love Añover.



COOL PAIR. "After Claudine, I don't look at other girls anymore," says Raymart.

The gift and challenge of free will

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

JIM Carrey's latest starrer, "Bruce Almighty," is a special viewing treat because it combines the ace comedian's signature humor with some insights on man's relationship with God. True, the format isn't new, having been previously mined by **George Burns** and **James Stewart**, but it's significant enough to deserve another go.

Besides, **Tom Shadyac's** movie has a unique twist in God giving Bruce divine powers for one week, to make him get over his anger at the Creator's making a mess of his life–or so he thinks.

Before this happens, Bruce is stuck in a dead-end job as a field reporter on TV. He wants more than anything else to be made anchor of the daily newscast, but that doesn't happen. In fact, he botches his latest assignment so badly that he's kicked out of the studio.

His love life doesn't fare much better. His longtime girlfriend (**Jennifer Aniston**) loves him to bits, but, lout that he is, he can't get himself to ask her to marry him, and she becomes impatient and feels taken for granted. One thing leads to another and, before

THE GIFT/ A29

Araneta Center
ENTERTAINMENT GUIDE

ALI MALL CINEPLEX 7	
Ali 1	PAKNERS
Ali 2	TANGING INA
Ali 3	BRUCE ALMIGHTY
Ali 4	DARKNESS FALLS
Ali 5	REAL CANCUN
Ali 6	BIGAY HILIG
Ali 7	MATRIX RELOADED

ARANETA COLISEUM	
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JUNE 9 & 11	NCA 7 COCK DERBY
JUNE 14	MARTIN & REGINE CONCERT
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TANDEM-2	KATAWAN MO LANGIT KO
TIMES	SPY / LEGEND OF CROCODILE
QUEZON CITY	
ACT-1	SENSUAL ISLAND
ACT-2	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
ACT-3	ORIGINAL SIN
ACT-4	HANGGANG KAILAN KA PAPATAY
CORONET A	THE REAL CANCUN
CORONET B	A MAN APART
QUEZON-1	HIRAM
REMAR	X-MEN 2
REMAR-2	BOLD STAR
NOVA MALL - NOVALICHES CINEMA	
A	BIGAY HILIG
B	ANG TANGING INA
C	
MANDALUYONG CITY	
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CINEMA-1	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
CINEMA-2	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
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STA. LUCIA EAST	(681-5401 TO 19)
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CINEMA-2	ANG KAPIT BAHAY
CINEMA-3	BIGAY HILIG
CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	BRUCE ALMIGHTY
CINEMA-5 (DTS)	MATRIX RELOADED
CINEMA-6	AGENT CODY BANKS
CINEMA-7	FRIDA
CINEMA-8	ANG TANGING INA
CINEMA-9 (DTS)	BRUCE ALMIGHTY
CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	DARKNESS FALLS
CINEMA-11 (SDDS)	REAL CANCUN
CINEMA-12	VERDICT
CINEMA-14	PAKNERS
CINEMA-15	ANG TANGING INA
LORES	
CINEMA-2	SENSUAL ISLAND
CINEMA-3	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
NE CINEMAGIC - CABANATUAN	
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CINEMA 2	WHAT A GIRL WANTS
CINEMA 3	ANG KAPIT BAHAY
CINEMA 4	PAKNERS
UNIWIDE COASTAL MALL	
(PARAÑAQUE)	SENSUAL ISLAND
CINEMA-1	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
CINEMA-2	MEN IN BLACK II
CINEMA-4	SELDA

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MICHAEL DOUGLAS & KIRK DOUGLAS
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DARKNESS FALLS PG13 1:10, 3:20, 5:30, -7:40, 9:50	FRIDA R18 12:00, 2:25, 4:50, 7:20, 9:50	BRUCE ALMIGHTY PG13 11:40, 1:45,3:50, 5:55,8:00,10:10

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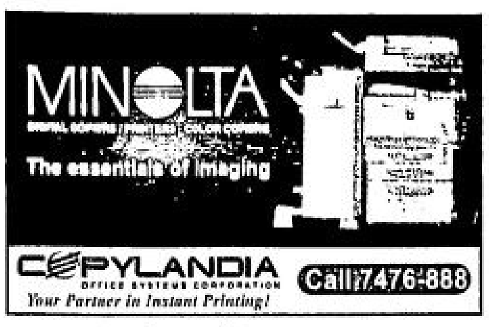

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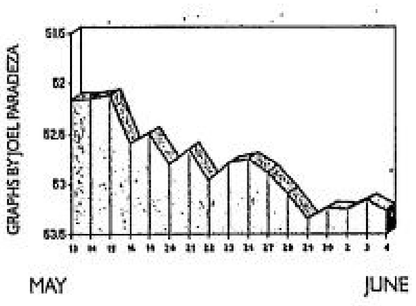
Budget deficit seen below May target

INDICATORS

CURRENCIES



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P 53.27 = $1

As of 5 p.m., June 4, 2003

¥ 118.68 = $1

As of 5 p.m., June 4, 2003

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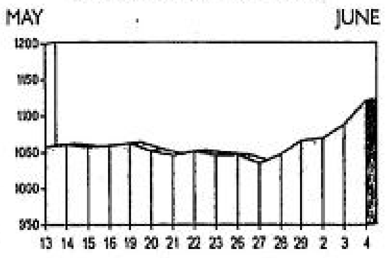
per ounce Hong Kong, June 3, 2003

STOCK MARKET

Stocks end at 6-week high

PSE COMPOSITE INDEX



(See stock market report on Page B2)

SHARES jumped to their highest in six weeks yesterday, powered by positive sentiment from the lower-than-target preliminary budget deficit numbers in May, traders said.

The Philippine stock index ended at its day high of 1,122.13 points, up 33.3 points or 3.06 percent, its highest closing level since April 21. It was also the market's highest daily percentage-point gain since July 2002.

"We're catching up with other markets in the region," said Monique Lecaros, dealer at SB Equities.

"It's because of the positive economic developments, particularly with BIR (the Bureau of Internal Revenue) collections falling within target, and the budget deficit seen within target for May."

"Any improvement in collections would improve sentiment in the market," said Paul Joseph Garcia, ING Investment Management chief investment officer.

Dominant carrier PLDT, fresh from a rating outlook upgrade from Fitch Ratings, led the market higher, accounting for about 13 percent of the total market turnover. It gained P15 or 3.31 percent to end at P467.50 after Fitch Ratings' on Friday upgraded its outlook on the stock to stable from negative.

Traders also banked on an expected turnaround in profits of power distributor Meralco in the second quarter.

The main index, which breached the initial resistance at 1,100 points, was expected to sustain the rally to its next resistance at 1,150 where some profit-taking might emerge, analysts said. ***Reuters***

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE BUDGET deficit is expected to come in well below the target for May, bolstering the Macapagal administration's chances of meeting its 2003 goal for the key economic indicator.

The preliminary deficit figure was seen at P7 billion against a target of about P20 billion in May, said a source familiar with the matter.

If the numbers are correct, the closely watched budget deficit—which has become a benchmark for the government's ability to control public finances—would be within target for the first five months of the year.

The government breached its annual target three times last year largely due to poor collection by the Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR), which has been tainted by allegations of corruption and inefficiency.

Preliminary May collections by the main tax agency were lower than the target revenue of P36.35 billion, BIR Commissioner Guillermo Parayno told reporters yesterday.

"It's P35.8 billion, 15 percent ahead of last year but still 1.5 percent short of the May goal," Parayno said.

The tax agency, which accounts for more than 60 percent of the government's total revenue, collected P30.89 billion in May last year.

So far, the May collections brought the agency's five-month collections to P176.12 billion, which was 10.1 percent or P16 billion better than the earnings posted during the same period last year.

Parayno said that in May, collections from the Large Taxpayers Service (LTS) improved by more than P2.12 billion or 11.3 percent from last year.

He said this was "a hefty margin considering that the LTS accounts for more than half of the BIR's entire tax collections."

Another revenue agency, the customs bureau, outperformed its target for the month and was likely to have made up for some of the tax agency's shortfall, officials said.

Customs Commissioner Antonio Bernardo told reporters earlier this week that his agency had collected a preliminary P8.8 billion in the first 21 days of May, exceeding its target for the month of P8.62 billion.

The budget shortfall in January to April was P65.5 billion, lower than the deficit goal of P67 billion for the period. ***With a report from Reuters***

PARAYNO

BERNARDO

Gov't woos big Japan firms to expand in RP

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

AFTER luring mega-buck projects from Korean chaebols, the Philippine government has set its sights on enticing Japanese sogo-soshas to increase their investments in the country.

In a statement, Trade and Industry Secretary Manuel A. Roxas said he would meet today with major Japanese trading firms Itochu Corp., Kawasho Corp., Marubeni Corp., Mitsubishi Corp., Mitsui & Ltd., and Sumitomo Corp.

Yesterday, Roxas arrived in Japan where he already met executives from leading Japanese companies such as Hitachi Corp., Honda Motor, Toyota Motor, Mitsubishi Motor, Matsushita, JGC Corp., Ibiden Co., Sanyo Electronics, Toshiba Corp., Tsuneishi Corp. and Yokohama Rubber. Roxas is part of the President's working visit to Japan from June 5 to 6.

Roxas said Japanese investors were optimistic on their outlook in the Philippines in sharp contrast to the views expressed by the Japanese ambassador to the Philippines who complained of sleepless nights in Manila because of security threat.

Aside from tackling specific investment plans of these trading firms and companies in the Philippines, Roxas said the government has also resumed discussions for the planned Philippines-Japan Economic Partnership Agreement specifically on three major areas—mutual recognition arrangements, sanitary and phytosanitary measures, and employment of Filipino nurses in Japan.

Roxas said the Philippines wanted Japanese technical help in harmonizing standards and industrial procedures in both countries, loosen up quarantine restrictions on Philippine fruit exports, and adoption of mechanisms that would facilitate the deployment of more nurses and caregivers to Japan.

During the three-day state visit to Korea, Roxas reported that the Philippines secured huge investments from Korean big business into the Philippines.

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Chiller instinct

BREAKTIME

Conrado R. Banal III

SAN Miguel Corp. is already one of the biggest companies in the country. And so it must look for a bigger playing field. That is why it is courting a huge beer company in Asean.

On an unpublicized mission to have a little hush-hush talk with the bigshots in that beer company is San Miguel president and COO Ramon Ang.

Ang is known in the business community as the right-hand man of San Miguel chair and CEO Eduardo Cojuangco Jr.

He's the same guy who helped Danding secure that $300-million investment of Japan's largest brewer Kirin in San Miguel two years ago.

If San Miguel succeeds in this newest acquisition, which is going to be its biggest shot so far, the company will become the country's first true regional player.

***

THEY say that these days, only a few business groups still have the killer instinct. San Miguel is one of them. And then you have the Ayala, Gokongwei and Henry Sy groups.

But San Miguel is the only Filipino company which, so far, is implementing a serious plan for a regional expansion, apparently in anticipation of the Asean Free Trade Area.

Aside from wooing that Asean brewer, which enjoys a strong market in affluent Malaysia and Singapore, San Miguel is going into the port business.

That started with its recent acquisition of the British-backed ATI's grain terminal in Bataan. I heard that San Miguel is also getting into a port business in Malaysia.

The port business, based on talk in the stock market, has something to do with San Miguel's program to export to the whole region. How I wish we can clone San Miguel.

***

FROM what I gathered, San Miguel has nothing concrete, at least none yet, regarding a deal with that Asean beer company. But now the two sides are starting to talk.

When San Miguel earlier sent that company an overture for a deal, San Miguel felt like it was talking to a chiller.

Now at least the other side is responding. And I think it's because both sides have no choice. The only way to go for beer companies in Asean is regional expansion.

The beer market in individual countries in Asean is not going to expand much. The beer companies are already bumping their individual market ceilings.

Today, for instance, San Miguel's market here is at its highest ever at some 97 percent. Anything higher than that, its enemies will tag San Miguel as a monopoly.

***

MOREOVER, San Miguel probably thinks that it has to make its acquisition moves soon. It has about P28 billion in the money market—in CASH.

The money is earning only so much here due to low interest rates. That's why the local bigshots are playing in financial markets abroad.

I heard, for instance, that John Gokongwei Jr. just made some loose change of $1 million in bond trading overseas. Did I already say he's actually my long lost uncle?

San Miguel, anyway, must use its P28 billion in cash to acquire more businesses before things start to move up both in the Philippines and in Asean.

For if you believe the economic managers of this cute administration of Gloriaetta, the economy is going on its seven-year cyclical uptrend by next year.

***

SIGNS of a rebound in investments are about. In the stock market, you can see a lot of foreign buying. The obvious proof is the performance of Meralco B.

The Meralco B issue, which is open to foreigners, is doing more than P10 per share, but the Meralco A issue is still at only about P6 per.

What explains such a huge difference? It's not as if the holders of "B" shares get a better management than the team headed by Meralco chair Manuel Lopez.

It is the same company, from electric post to the Supreme Court ordered refund. Only, the "B" enjoys a demand from foreign investors.

They must see something in this country which we don't. For how come nobody is paying attention to the Meralco A shares? Maybe we are afraid of the Supreme Court.

***

WHEN the stock market perks up, they say it is always a good sign for the economy. You see, the stock market mirrors the level of confidence in business and on the economy itself.

And the stock market is going up. PLDT, for instance, is now doing at more than P400 per share. Up by more than 40 percent, from its low last year.

Had the SSS and the GSIS gone into the stock market, in other words, they would have made a lot of money by now.

For the past two years under this cute administration, those two were the only pension funds in the world which did not bother with the stock market at all.

Stock market people have been egging both pension funds to take a good look at the market. I have been pestering them about it. But how do you wake up somebody who is comatose?

***

LIKE it or not, despite stupid info which some groups in the SSS are peddling around, the SSS did well in the stock market during the time of the man named Band ... Wrist Band.

The SSS made more than P30 billion in the stock market at that time. I think it's because the SSS had a real investment guy in Carlos Arellano.

But with less than three years as head of the fund, Arellano is now being pictured as the reason why SSS has money problems.

Some groups are trying to blame Arellano for the SSS investment in Equitable Bank's purchase of PCIBank. They call it a "behest" investment.

It was a—whatchamacalit—"behest" investment, because the damned deal was overpriced. They cannot tell the difference between an overprice and a premium.

***

AS a matter of fact, the PCIBank pricing had a premium over the book value. If you look at the market price, nevertheless, there was no premium whatsoever.

If I remember right, on the day of the transaction between Equitable and PCIBank stockholders, the market price of PCIBank shares hit the acquisition price set in the deal.

In short, there was no premium over the market price. On hindsight, it would have been easy for the SSS to buy up the PCIBank shares, and it could have gotten a discount.

Unfortunately, Arellano was abroad on the day of the deal. Had he been here, he could have easily bought up the shares since he knew the market well.

But even if he did that, they would still question the deal. Using hindsight, they know that Equitable Bank went pffft during the Edsa II affair.

Yet in investments, as well as life itself, if we can only use hindsight to make money, we will all be better in playing the bond market than Gokongwei.

***

WHAT is this I hear about a court case between a property company and the Belgian embassy?

It seems that the owners of the house which the Belgian embassy has been leasing for the past 20 years or so, sued the embassy for its refusal to pay the rent.

Last year, you see, the embassy got a new ambassador. It turned out that he just came from a posting in the city that does not sleep—New York.

Apparently, he did not like the house which the embassy has been leasing for past 20 years although the embassy had a lease contract until the end of 2003.

When it was time last December, to pay rent for the full year, the Belgian embassy suddenly developed amnesia. The embassy forgot to pay the house owners.

***

SEVERAL months later, the embassy was still occupying the house. At the same time, the embassy was still not paying the rent.

Granted, based on word from its lawyers, the Belgian embassy claimed that the house needed repair.

Moreover, the embassy claims that the house owners could not sue the embassy and the ambassador because of the so-called diplomatic immunity. Hmm.

Let me see if I got it right—the embassy is occupying a house, which it nevertheless does not like, which in turn is the reason why it does not pay the rent, and yet the house owner cannot do anything because of diplomatic immunity? Wow!

So thanks to that immunity, it's okay for them to use the house and refuse to pay the rent. These guys must think that we are all swinging on trees here.

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₱500,001 - ₱5,000,000	7.000%	7.250%	7.500%
₱5,000,001 and above	7.250%	7.500%	7.750%
DOLLAR TIME DEPOSIT			
$ 1,000 - $10,000	1.500%	1.500%	1.500%
$ 10,001 - $100,000	1.875%	1.875%	1.875%
$ 100,001 - $500,000	2.750%	2.750%	2.750%
$ 500,001 and above	3.125%	3.125%	3.125%

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PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of June 4, 2003)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Banco de Oro Univ. Bank	16	16.25	16	16.25	103,600
Bank of the Phil. Islands	39.5	42.5	39.5	42.5	1,728,400
China Banking Corp.	725	730	725	725	190
Citystate Savings Bank	14.5	14.5	14.5	14.5	2,000
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	24.5	27	24.5	26.5	606,600
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	26.5	28.5	26	28.5	1,505,300
Philippine National Bank	20.25	21.5	20.25	21.5	555,000
Phil. Savings Bank	28	28	28	28	14,800
Security Bank Corp.	10	10.25	10	10.25	650,000
Union Bank of the Phil.	18	18.25	18	18.25	78,600
FINANCIAL SERVICES					
Bankard Inc.	1.4	1.4	1.4	1.4	163,000
Manulife Financial Corp.	1475	1485	1475	1485	1,720
PCI Leasing & Fin. Inc.	0.75	0.83	0.75	0.83	50,000
Sun Life Financial Serv.	1085	1090	1085	1090	2,360
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	15	15.5	14.75	15.25	47,800
Diversified Fin. Network	3	3.6	2.9	3.6	11,000
Digital Telecom Phils Inc.	0.72	0.74	0.72	0.73	6,420,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	600	605	600	605	60,380
Island Info and Tech Inc.	0.039	0.039	0.039	0.039	12,700,000
ISM Communications Corp.	0.02	0.022	0.018	0.022	48,100,000
Pilipino Tel. Corp.	0.32	0.33	0.31	0.31	5,300,000
Phil. Telegraph & Tel. Co	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	260,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	460	470	457.5	467.5	171,680
Vivant Corp.	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	60,000
Philweb Corp.	0.012	0.012	0.012	0.012	3,200,000
POWER & ENERGY					
Manila Electric Co. A	6.8	7	6.8	6.9	539,000
Manila Electric Co. B	10.75	11	10.75	11	1,846,300
Petron Corp.	1.8	1.86	1.8	1.82	7,957,000
Trans-Asia Oil and Energy	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9	110,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Asian Terminals Inc.	1.58	1.6	1.58	1.58	504,000
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	2.5	2.55	2.5	2.5	581,000
Keppel Phils. Marine Inc.	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	20,000
William,Gothong & Aboitiz	2.08	2.08	2.08	2.08	10,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Engineering Equip. Inc.	0.47	0.47	0.46	0.46	680,000
Republic Glass Hldg. Corp.	1.58	1.58	1.58	1.58	30,000
Union Cement Corp.	0.77	0.82	0.77	0.82	950,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Alaska Milk Corp.	2.75	2.8	2.75	2.8	437,000
Ginebra San Miguel Inc.	26.5	27.5	26.5	27.5	55,000
Jollibee Foods Corp.	16.5	16.5	16.5	16.5	720,500
RFM Corp.	0.66	0.7	0.66	0.7	380,000
San Miguel Corp. A	55	55	54.5	55	89,600
San Miguel Corp. B	64	64.5	63.5	63.5	624,000
Universal Robina Corp.	4.1	4.2	4.1	4.2	26,000
Vitarich Corp.	0.24	0.24	0.24	0.24	120,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Abacus Con Res & Hdg A	0.34	0.35	0.34	0.35	40,000
Abacus Con Res & Hdg B	0.35	0.35	0.35	0.35	10,000
Ayala Corp.	4.35	4.45	4.35	4.45	14,129,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	2.3	2.34	2.28	2.3	1,118,000
Ajo.Net Holdings Inc.	0.026	0.026	0.026	0.026	1,100,000
APC Group Inc.	0.05	0.05	0.05	0.05	700,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.0055	0.0055	0.0055	0.0055	2,000,000
ATN Holdings Inc.	1.8	1.84	1.7	1.8	1,331,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	0.31	0.34	0.31	0.32	23,980,000
Crown Equities Inc.	0.17	0.17	0.17	0.17	10,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	0.21	0.215	0.21	0.215	1,510,000
Filinvest Dev. Corp.	1.12	1.12	1.12	1.12	10,000
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	8.5	8.6	8	8.1	1,062,000
Forum Pacific Inc.	0.15	0.15	0.15	0.15	40,000
Global Equities Inc.	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	100,000
Ionics Inc.	0.63	0.65	0.63	0.65	100,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	1.62	1.62	1.56	1.56	194,000
Macroasia Corp.	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	50,000
Marsteel Cons. Inc. B	0.0085	0.0085	0.0085	0.0085	2,000,000
Megaworld Corp.	0.56	0.59	0.55	0.59	15,460,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.175	0.185	0.175	0.185	2,530,000
Music Corp.	0.28	0.31	0.28	0.3	1,060,000
Prime Orion Phils. Inc.	0.09	0.09	0.09	0.09	100,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Corro-Coat Inc.	1.26	1.26	1.26	1.26	10,000
Matsushita Elec Phil Corp.	6.8	6.8	6.8	6.8	5,000
Mabuhay Vinyl Corp.	1.66	1.72	1.66	1.72	132,000
SPI Technologies Inc.	16.5	16.5	16.5	16.5	319,000
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICES					
Belle Corp.	0.42	0.45	0.42	0.45	7,990,000
Leisure & Resorts Corp.	0.35	0.35	0.35	0.35	30,000
Mondragon Intl Phils Inc.	0.28	0.28	0.28	0.28	400,000
Premiere Ent. Prod. Inc.	0.44	0.46	0.4	0.4	4,050,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp. (Pdr)	14.5	15.5	14.5	15.5	1,075,400
PLDT (10% Pref) Series Z	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	1,000
PLDT 10% Pref Series Aa	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	2,900
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	5	5.2	5	5.1	10,738,000
C & P Homes Inc.	0.15	0.16	0.15	0.16	270,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.135	0.135	0.135	0.135	550,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.17	0.17	0.165	0.17	1,690,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	0.88	0.9	0.88	0.88	12,270,000
Fil-Estate Land Inc.	0.15	0.155	0.15	0.155	890,000
SM Development Corp.	1.06	1.1	1.06	1.1	117,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	4.8	4.95	4.8	4.9	6,533,000
MINING					
Abra Mining & Industrial	0.003	0.003	0.003	0.003	360,000,000
Atlas Cons. Min & Dev't	1.04	1.04	1.04	1.04	20,000
Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	50,000
Omico Corp.	0.0038	0.004	0.0038	0.004	23,000,000
Philex Mining Corp. A	0.26	0.26	0.26	0.26	60,000
Philex Mining Corp. B	0.29	0.29	0.29	0.29	150,000
OIL					
Imperial Res.	0.012	0.012	0.012	0.012	1,200,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.0026	0.0026	0.0026	0.0026	30,000,000
Sinophil Corp.	0.022	0.022	0.019	0.019	6,800,000

DISCLOSURES

IMPERIAL Resources Inc. will increase its authorized capital stock from P700 million to P4 billion divided into 560 million class A common shares and 240 million class B common shares, both with par value of P5.

* * *

ELECTED directors of Metropolitan Bank and Trust Co. were Arthur Vy Ty, Henry Sun, Francisco Sebastian, Gabriel Chua, Paul Cuyegkeng, Felipe Alfonso, Cielito Habito, Renato Valencia, James Go, Antonio Abacan Jr., Placido Mapa Jr. and George Ty.

* * *

SM Development Corp. declared cash dividends of P0.05 per share in favor of stockholders of record as of May 29. The dividends are payable on June 25.

* * *

UNIVERSAL Robina Corp. will hold its annual stockholders' meeting on May 22, 4 p.m. at the Manansala Hall of Manila Galleria Suites, Pasig City. Stockholders of record as of April 22 are entitled to vote at the meeting.

* * *

IVANTAGE Corp. will hold it's annual stockholders' meeting on June 4, 2 p.m. at the Clermont Function Room of Discovery Center, Pasig City. Stockholders of record as of May 4 are entitled to notice of and to vote at the meeting.

* * *

HOUSE of Investments Inc. will hold its annual stockholders' meeting on June 2, 2:30 p.m. at the 5/F, Tower II, RCBC Plaza, Makati City. Stockholders of record as of May 2 are entitled to vote at the meeting.

* * *

JOLLIBEE Foods Corp. declared cash dividends of P0.15 per share in favor of stockholders of record as of May 19. The dividends are payable on May 28. ***Compiled by Maricar D. Tolosa, PDI Research***

INTEREST RATES

June 04, 2003-MART1

Rates Benchmark Interest Rates	MART1 4-Jun-03 (%)	MART1 3-Jun-03 (%)
1 Month	6.9583	7.1364
3 Months	7.125	7.125
6 Months	7.7545	7.8011
1 Year	8.225	8.2402
2 Years	8.9096	9.0019
3 Years	9.8077	9.9423
4 Years	10.4192	10.5481
5 Years	10.9077	10.9769
7 Years	11.4154	11.5288
10 Years	11.7692	11.8346
20 Years	12.1115	12.1167
25 Years	12.5654	12.6596

SOURCE: MART/BLOOMBERG

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June 4, 2003

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United States	Dollar	0.851934	1.000000	53.176000
Japan	Yen	0.007150	0.008393	0.446300
United Kingdom	Pound	1.387204	1.628300	86.586500
Hongkong	Dollar	0.109246	0.128233	6.818900
Switzerland	Franc	0.650480	0.763534	40.601700
Canada	Dollar	0.623853	0.732279	38.939700
Singapore	Dollar	0.493331	0.579072	30.792700
Australia	Dollar	0.562370	0.660110	35.102000
Bahrain	Dinar*	2.259892	2.652661	141.057900
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.227177	0.266660	14.179900
Brunei	Dollar	0.491907	0.577401	30.703900
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000104	0.000122	0.006500
Thailand	Baht	0.020450	0.024004	1.276400
UAE	Dirham	0.231964	0.272279	14.478700
Euro	Euro	1.000000	1.173800	62.418000
Argentina	Peso	0.301037	0.353357	18.790100
Brazil	Real	0.287913	0.337952	17.970900
Denmark	Kroner	0.134800	0.158228	8.413900
India	Rupee	0.018185	0.021345	1.135000
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.224223	0.263193	13.995600
Mexico	New Peso	0.082917	0.097328	5.175500
New Zealand	Dollar	0.493189	0.578905	30.783900
Norway	Kroner	0.124134	0.145709	7.748200
Pakistan	Rupee	0.014778	0.017346	0.922400
South Africa	Rand	0.106080	0.124517	6.621300
Korea	Won	0.000709	0.000832	0.044200
Sweden	Kroner	0.109667	0.128727	6.845200
Syria	Pound	0.020285	0.023810	1.266100
Taiwan	Nt Dollar	0.024623	0.028902	1.536900
Venezuela	Bolivar	0.000534	0.000627	0.033300

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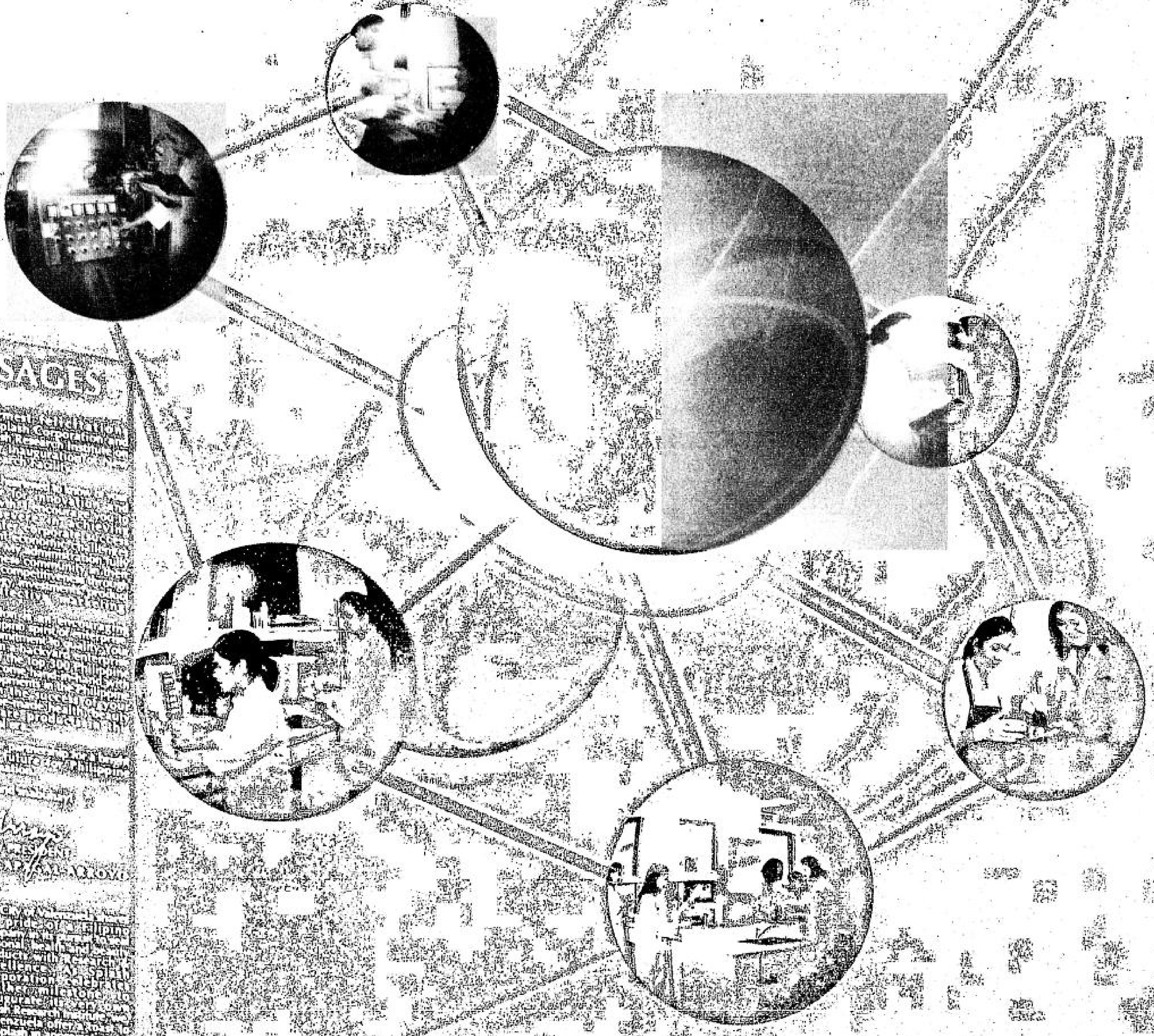

MESSAGES

[illegible] Splash Corporation [illegible] Splash Research [illegible] inauguration [illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible] Filipino [illegible] products [illegible]

[illegible]

HER EXCELLENCY PRESIDENT GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO

[illegible] the pride of [illegible] Filipino [illegible] products with [illegible] Excellence [illegible] Splash Corporation [illegible] another milestone [illegible] inauguration [illegible] the people of Valenzuela [illegible] another significant contribution to the community. Congratulations [illegible] Filipino [illegible]

HON. JOSE EMMANUEL L. CARLOS, M.D.
MAYOR OF VALENZUELA CITY

On behalf of the Bureau of Food and Drugs, I wish to extend our whole-hearted congratulations to Splash Corporation on the occasion of the inauguration of its research facility, the Splash Research Institute.

[illegible] appreciate the quality of your products and your commitment in providing Filipinos with products that are not only of good quality but are affordable as well, will definitely contribute in building a healthy citizenry.

May I encourage you to continue to place greatest emphasis on the quality and affordability of your products [illegible] help build a [illegible] Republic.

PROF. LETICIA B. GUTIERREZ
DIRECTOR, BUREAU OF FOOD & DRUGS

We are extending our felicitations to the Splash Research Institute on the inauguration of its [illegible] the Splash Research and Development (R&D) [illegible]

The facility's inauguration [illegible] milestone in our [illegible] effort to bring our R&D [illegible] at par with the best in the world. We may not have realized this vision [illegible] but with [illegible] and the corporate support of our people [illegible] committed, we shall [illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible] products will [illegible]

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DR. ROLANDO B. HORTALEZA
CHAIRMAN and CEO
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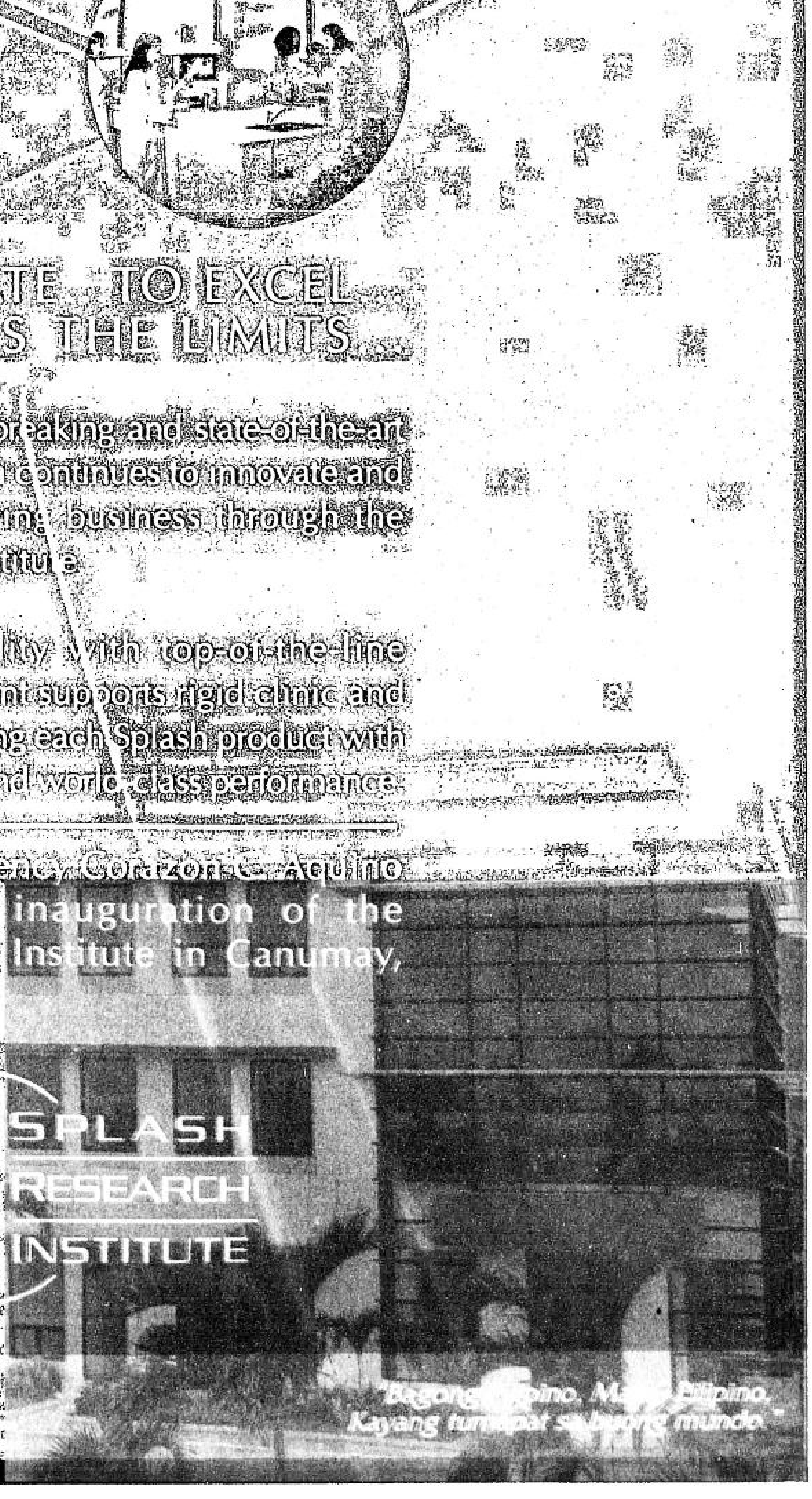
Today, Her Excellency Corazon C. Aquino will grace the inauguration of the Splash Research Institute in Canumay, Valenzuela City.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3 defense contractors bid for $10-M radar deal

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr. and Jun Malig

THREE major defense and aerospace system contractors—Raytheon of North America, Alenia Marconi of Italy and Thales ATM of France—have submitted a bid for the $10-million radar project of the Diosdado Macapagal International Airport (DMIA).

Clark Development Corp. acting president Victor Jose I. Luciano said two other suppliers—Northrop Grumann and Martin Lockheed of the United States—that were earlier prequalified did not attend the June 3 bidding. The bids are still being evaluated by the Air Transportation Office and CDC.

The Massachusetts-based Raytheon offered a bid of $9.1 million while the UK-Italy consortium Alenia Marconi submitted a $9.3-million offer.

Raytheon also presented a bid bond of P13.5 million while that of Alenia Marconi's has a bid bond of $100,000.

The bidding held at the airport's boardroom was a big frustration for the giant French company Thales ATM which had submitted the supposed lowest bid but was disqualified after the project's technical working group found that the compliance statement form it presented was not notarized as required under Executive Order No. 40.

Raytheon recently bagged a $16-million stringer missile production and $90-million supercomputing technology support contracts from the US Army.

It also got the air defense system support contract in Saudi Arabia. The company has about 78,000 employees worldwide and has an average annual income of $17 billion.

Alenia Marconi, a joint venture between BAE Systems of the UK and Finnmeccanica of Italy, is a major force in the European defense and electronics industry with contracts in many parts of the world.

The installation of a radar system is expected to pave the way for the elevation of DMIA as the country's premier international airport. President Macapagal-Arroyo signed last year Republic Act No. 7227 designating the former Clark airfield as an international gateway.

"DMIA will be one of the most competitive, safest and reliable airports not only in the country but throughout Asia," Luciano said.

Flights at the DMIA currently use the radar system of the Ninoy Aquino International Airport to ensure safe landings and takeoffs.

Luciano said the $10-million project cost would be funded by export credit agencies with an attached sovereign guarantee to be provided by the Philippine Export Import Bank.

Luciano is optimistic that the radar project would attract more airline and cargo flights to DMIA which has a passenger terminal that could accommodate 1.5 million passengers yearly and two parallel 3.2-kilometer runways that could accommodate the largest commercial and military aircraft.

The current traffic at DMIA is accounted for by the world's largest air delivery provider United Parcel Services which has established an intra-Asian hub in Clark.

CORPORATE AGRARIAN REFORM

Mechanization threatens farmer-beneficiaries

By Jo Clemente
PDI Central Luzon Desk

(Second of three parts)

SUGARCANE loaded in trucks for milling. JO CLEMENTE

TARLAC CITY—As a model for corporate agrarian reform in the Philippines, how is Hacienda Luisita handling its operations?

According to its financial report, Hacienda Luisita Inc.'s (HLI) "affairs, businesses and properties are managed by an affiliate" covered by a management contract whereby HLI pays this affiliate a fixed monthly management fee and an additional fee equivalent to a certain percentage of its annual net profit.

This affiliate is the Jose Cojuangco and Sons Inc. (JCSI), the Cojuangcos' umbrella corporation.

To mill the sugarcane harvested from its farms, HLI has a milling agreement with Central Azucarera de Tarlac, also an affiliate. The milling agreement provides for a 69-percent and 31-percent sharing of the sugar and molasses produced every crop year.

To sell the sugar it produces, HLI has assigned the Luisita Marketing Corp. (LMC), another affiliate, as its exclusive marketing agent. HLI pays LMC a commission equivalent to 1 percent of the gross shares of the value of sugar traded.

It is interesting to note that JCSI and LMC are part owners of Tarlac Development Corp. (Tadeco), which, according to its 2002 financial report, carries an 85.52-percent investment in HLI. Tadeco also owns 40 percent of the Luisita Realty Corp. where HLI sold its 200 hectares of land.

Beneficiaries have four representatives in the 11-member HLI board.

Francisco Sigua, president of the United Luisita Workers Union (ULWU), occupies a seat as an ex-officio member while three other representatives are elected by the beneficiaries based on the number of shares they hold.

The three members come from their respective groups: permanent, regular seasonal/casual, and supervisory.

According to Sigua, the current count in their master list of casual/seasonal workers alone is 5,250 while he estimates the permanent and supervisory group to be about 300 and 100, respectively. Except for the supervisory, the rest are members of the ULWU.

'Man days' vs stock

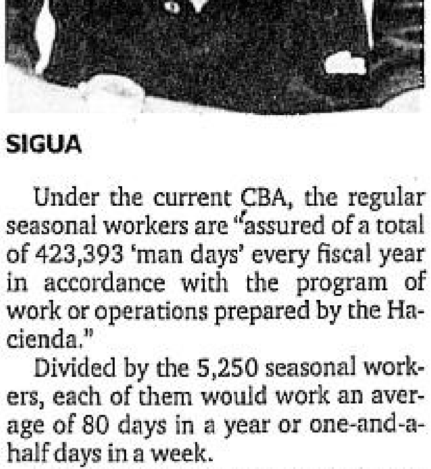
In contrast to regular agrarian reform beneficiaries where land is parceled out to and paid for by them, Luisita's shares of stock, while given free, must be earned by the beneficiaries.

Their shares are dictated by the number of "man days" they worked in the farms and these "man days" are defined in their collective bargaining agreement (CBA). Simply put, it's "no work, no shares of stock."

In 2002, Apolonio Tobias Jr., a regular seasonal worker, was credited with 200 "man days." Tobias received 2,008 shares of stock for the year.

But Tobias, as an officer of the ULWU mandated to see the day-to-day affairs of the union, is credited the full working days of a regular seasonal worker. Thus, his 200 "man days" are a high-end figure.

This is not so for the majority of the beneficiaries. Current daily rate for regular seasonal workers is P199.17 while casuals are paid P194.50.



SIGUA

Under the current CBA, the regular seasonal workers are "assured of a total of 423,393 'man days' every fiscal year in accordance with the program of work or operations prepared by the Hacienda."

Divided by the 5,250 seasonal workers, each of them would work an average of 80 days in a year or one-and-a-half days in a week.

The situation is far from ideal, says Sigua. Sigua, the third president of the ULWU since the stock distribution option (SDO) was implemented, said the number of "man days" had been so since the very start.

"People are complaining," he said. "But since the 'man days' are negotiated through the CBA and not through the SDO program we have yet to wait for another CBA negotiation," he said.

Sigua understands though that work at the farms had changed tremendously with the implementation of the hacienda's mechanization program.

This, he said, is inevitable if HLI would have to be more efficient and productive. He laments, however, that the workers are not prepared for the eventuality of the mechanization and that previous leadership had failed to develop alternative plans, especially so since "man days" are the basis of the stock shares.

"Man days" are also the basis for allocating each beneficiary's portion in the 3-percent production share from the sugar and molasses produced by the sugarcane they harvested from the farms.

SDO cancellation

For 2002, Tobias received P2,800 as his share, computed from the 200 "man days" credited to him multiplied by the year's production factor of P14.

This factor, according to Tobias, was derived by dividing the total number of employees of HLI, including managers, over the amount equal to the 3-percent gross production value.

Tobias says the employees run up to 7,000, including managers, so much more than the number of qualified beneficiaries in the master list.

So far, P14 per "man day" had been the highest production share achieved by HLI. The lowest was at P8 given in 1990, the first year the production sharing was implemented.

The 13-year average is P10.84. In 2000, a group of farm workers-beneficiaries filed a petition before the Department of Agrarian Reform seeking the cancellation of the SDO.

One of the issues they raised is security of tenure borne by the limited number of days they can work on the farms. The workers claim majority of them work for only two days in a week, in effect reducing their claims as beneficiaries of the government's agrarian reform program.

The issue on "man days" is also a source of headache to HLI management.

A management source says that banks chide the company saying *"inampon nyo pala sila* (you accommodated them)," in reference to the high administrative cost brought about by maintaining more than the required "man days."

"If real work is to be measured, the 423,000 man days guaranteed the workers should have been much less," the source says. "In land preparation, a tractor can cultivate three hectares for four hours but, we continue to hire 10 people who will finish the work in 10 days just so we can give them the 'man days' they ask. On top of this, we even divide the three hectares into four parts so that the *cabos* or team leaders will have something to supervise. This is not efficiency but accommodation," the source says.

Dwindling 'man days'

Another farm worker, who had worked in the Hacienda since 1978 and had been a team leader for 12 years, confirms this with lament.

"I used to have 25 to 30 people in my group. We plant the sugarcane, put fertilizers on them and water them. But in 1990, when farm machines were started to be used, our workdays started to decrease and the number of people got fewer and fewer," she says.

As one of the regulars, this worker says she is more or less assured of 80 "man days" according to their CBA but the casual members of her team hardly get called for work. At most, they only work from one to two days in a week. When work in the fields is done, the regulars are given other related tasks, like cleaning drainage canals and culverts, she says.

But how does one get called to work? By rotation, says another farm worker.

In Barangay Balete, where he lives, the worker says there are about 570 of them. When the *cabo* or team leader goes through a roll call and the person is not there, the work is given to someone else.

"Sometimes, the names are missed out on purpose and rotation is based on favoritism," says the worker.

Mechanization indeed is taking place every step of the process, says Sigua.

"Mechanized planters that can cover five hectares in eight hours are slowly taking over the work manually done by 50 people in three days per hectare," he says. *(To be concluded)*

Ayala Corp. selling Makati property to ALI

By Elena R. Torrijos

AYALA Corp., the flagship holding company of the Ayala family, has started preliminary negotiations to sell a 2,340-square-meter prime property in Makati City to subsidiary Ayala Land Inc.

"Logically, that property will be conveyed to them (ALI) for a consideration. We have gotten an independent party to do the valuation," AC managing director Rufino Luis Manotok said in an interview with the INQUIRER yesterday.

As the property has a low book value, its sale at current property prices would likely result in a significant windfall for Ayala Corp.

One property analyst said the Makati property could fetch about P180,000 per square meter or a total of P421 million.

In a disclosure to the Philippine Stock Exchange, AC said the property along Makati Avenue reverted to the company after Ayala Foundation Inc. discontinued the use of the property for the Ayala Museum.

The property was donated by AC to AFI in 1978 subject to the condition that the property would revert to Ayala Corp. as donor once it was no longer used as a museum building.

The deed of reversion between the parties was executed Monday.

Manotok said that any gain from the sale of the property would be offset from the expenses that Ayala Corp. would incur under a commitment to establish a permanent home for the Ayala Museum in ALI's Greenbelt development.

"We are committed to provide them (AFI) a new site," Manotok said.

The Ayala Museum is temporarily housed in Glorietta while AFI is holding office at the Makati Stock Exchange building.

Prime Orion seeks reconsideration of Amari ruling

PRIME Orion Philippines Inc. has filed with the Supreme Court a motion for reconsideration of the high court's decision nullifying the amended joint venture agreement between government-owned Public Estates Authority and Prime Orion's indirect subsidiary, Amari Coastal Bay Development Corp.

Prime Orion is a stockholder of Cyber Bay Corp., parent company of Amari.

In a disclosure to the Philippine Stock Exchange, Prime Orion corporate secretary Daisy Parker said the company cited as grounds for its petition the grave effect of the decision on numerous investors and stockholders of Cyber Bay who invested their funds in the Amari project.

"The corporation has been unduly deprived of its property rights under the AJVA when the SC declared it void," Prime Orion said.

Both Prime Orion and Cyberbay are listed on the Philippine Stock Exchange.

Prime Orion also said the nullification of the AJVA would "undermine and adversely affect other projects of similar nature to the prejudice of all shareholders and employees of project proponents and the investing public in general."

Prime Orion argued that the SC's nullification of the AJVA on ground that the agreement's object was contrary to law was actually without basis.

The company explained that the object of the AJVA was not the reclaimed land but the service to be rendered by Amari, which was the act of reclamation.

The reclamation itself is not contrary to the law, morals, good customs or public policy.

Prime Orion said it was "most unfair" and a violation of procedural and substantive rights for the government to encourage investors, both Filipino and foreign, to invest in income-generating national construction ventures (such as reclamation), form corporations, build infrastructure facilities, spend money and effort, only to be told that the invitation was unconstitutional or illegal.

The company also pointed out that there was no indication of how investors could be compensated for their work.

Amari said it had pumped in P9.8 billion to develop the reclaimed land. *Elena R. Torrijos*

DOF opposes proposed tax refund for OBUs, FCDUs

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE DEPARTMENT of Finance has opposed the retroactive restoration of tax exemptions previously extended to offshore banking units (OBUs) and foreign currency deposit units (FCDUs) as the refund was estimated to cost the government at least P2.88 billion.

Prior to the legislation of the comprehensive tax reform program (CTRP) in 1998, OBUs and FCDUs were exempted from all taxes on income derived from non-residents, other OBUs, local commercial banks and branches of foreign banks that transact with OBUs and FCDUs.

The DOF position was made public after Rep. Exequel Javier filed a bill in Congress (House Bill No. 5246) seeking the restoration of the pre-CTRP system where all incomes derived from foreign currency transactions, except for interest income from foreign currency lending to residents which shall be subject to a 10-percent final tax, were tax exempt.

Under the old system, OBUs and FCDUs are also exempted from the gross receipts tax, documentary stamp tax and the 15-percent branch profits remittance tax.

While the DOF is willing to restore the tax exemptions to OBUs and FCDUs, the bone of contention was the proposed retroactive effectivity of the measure to Jan. 1, 1998.

The DOF, in a position paper dated May 26, endorsed the House measure except for its retroactive effectivity.

"A retroactive effectivity means the government will have to refund the taxes it collected, which would amount to least P2.88 billion," the DOF said.

The House committee on ways and means, for its part, has accepted the DOF's position.

The DOF said it had agreed to the restoration of the exemption recognizing that other countries like Australia, Thailand and Malaysia impose taxes on their OBUs and FCDUs but at preferential rates.

THURSDAY, JUNE 5, 2003

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VISTA VERDE la397 fa230
5.6M 09167826569•6471960

LAGUNA

Binan 3T/mo 9390299

VARIED AREAS

P60/DAY BAHAY-AGAD
PAG-IBIG • 0919-8804780

CONDO/TWNHSE

MAKATI

1.6M C5 Nr The Fort
12T/mo. or 3Yrs No Int. or 10% D.P. LIPAT AGAD 3-5BR 15min Fr Mkti 0917-8169849

BEL-AIR SOHO
Jupiter/Polaris St Makati 30.28sqm 10%DP 8,000/mo.
•Call 0918-9337125•

THE BEL-AIR SOHO
10%DP 8T/mo. 0919-8804780

THE FORT 3.9M
BNEW 2/3BDR 109sqm Beside
MLA GOLF Res'l Condo
5 Mins. fr Makati/Rockwell
Cash Discount
0917-5271188

MANILA

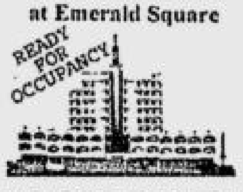
NR LA SALLE TAFT
BnewTwnhse/3stry/3br/3tb/grge
P3.415M 8903461 loc 34

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

CONDO/TWNHSE

QUEZON CITY

The
TOWER
at Emerald Square



EMERALD TWR
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PROJ. 4, QUEZON CITY
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922-4464/913-7632

PARANAQUE

2BR 3TB Twnhse 2Grge 2.5M
5601254 09189177393

PASIG

OFF ORTIGAS 5 yrs 0% Int w/ Lease T-6362907 / 3020

QUEZON CITY

2BR Condo infront Ateneo QC 5601254 09189177393

CUBAO P1.4M 10%dp 9132224

Fernandina 88 100sqm 4.8M Neg 3br 2tb 0916-7069277

LOT

PASIG

★VV6 910m² @22T 412-1825

QUEZON CITY

CORINTHIAN 600M² 4121825

OTHER AREAS

TAGAYTAY 1.7hec 1700/m
'09167826569•6471960

PROVINCIAL

Cavite Light Industrial Park
Maguyam Road, Carmona, Cavite
Phase 1 Fully Developed
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Prices are subject to change
upon initial development
Owner / Developer:
Cathay Land Inc. and
Cathay Metal Corp.
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631-4069 • 0916-6013354

FARM/FISHPEN/RAWLANDS

ZAMBALES Mango Farm
2,7,9,10,30,68ha 09192221766

RESORT

Pansol Hot Spring priv 7870543

REAL ESTATE FOR RENT

COMMERCIAL/RESIDENTIAL

BAGUIO

PENSION HOUSE LONG TERM LEASE accepts TRANSIENT SEMINARS 074 4422020

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

LOT

LAGUNA

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REAL ESTATE FOR RENT

CONDO/TWNHSE

KALOOCAN

NEW COM'L • OFFICE #162 P. Jacinto cor Bigiang Awa Caloocan 323-0175

MAKATI

BNEW MKTI CONDO-11K
OXFORD SUITES FF
ELEGANT W/ NICE VIEW
10MINS.FR.ROCKWELL
NR BUENDIA & MKTI AVE.
750-0127*752-2580
0917-7940078

BNEW MKTI RES CONDO
WEST OF AYALA
Gil Puyat Ave. Cor. Ayala
37-140 sqm 11K-55K
750-0127•752-2580

CLASSICA TOWER-123BR
Salcedo Village, Makati
43-157m² 18-70K.UF/FF
750-0127*752-2580*848-7388

Kamagong Makati 2BR 1OT 1BR 8T 0917-8992031 / 2438340

RckWell 2BR Bong 722-2222

Rockwell Studio
FF 51m² View Pool 721-2756

PASIG

★MegaPlz 2BR Condo FF 4121825

QUEZON CITY

1&3BR Valencia cor. Castilla St. QC T7267907 / 09175325838 Rowena

APARTMENT

MANILA

SAN SEBASTIAN UNIV BELT 7041058/7348912 OFC HRS

STA. CRUZ 1BD 1T&B 2540714

PARANAQUE

2br. Apt Mnwlk Pque. T#5241365•/5275941/(0917)5345470

QUEZON CITY

78D 11th Av Cubao 4272660

Cubao P3.5 Std Lady 9124428

REAL ESTATE FOR RENT

BEDSPACE

DORM IN A CONDO 4.5K
BURGUNDY WESTBAY TWR
V.CRUZ NR LASALLE/ST.SCHO
ALSO AVAIL. 4 RENT:
1,2,3 BR/COML UNITS
752-2580/750-0127
0917-8435845

LOAN & MORTGAGE

2% W/O TAKING CAR 3677523/24

OFFICE SPACE FOR RENT

AVENIDA NR RAON T735-6516

JOLBEE PLZA 109.19m² @250hi-floor 412-1825

TRANSPORTATION FOR SALE

CARS

BMW

'83 A/T WELL MAINTAINED
Dark Gray P415T ALL ORIG.
Call 09198616193

MITSUBISHI

1995 MITSUBISHI LANCER
GLI, BEIGE COLOR
OWNER-DRIVEN, PRICE NEGOTIABLE CALL 631-9954
BETWEEN 6-9PM ONLY

OTHER CAR BRANDS

Pajero Land Cruiser Surf
Trooper Safari MU Delica
Hi-town Ace Elf Canter etc
9126976 / 09178342020

TRANSPORTATION FOR RENT

CARS FOR RENT

L3•Cars• 9273453 4538295

Starex MB100 Coaster
Bus • Call 637-7396

1T VAN 7837228

A B C CARS/VANS
NEW MODELS W/ OR W/O DRIVER
MLA HO 536-8822 • 303-9789
O.C. BR. 426-2278 • 426-4084

A.TOYCO UDRIVE W/ DRIVER CARS/VANS/RENTAL 8006595

★Vans Coaster Bus 440-9171

P800/L3 9136710/4333682

Van 0917-6626993 • 6421840

CAR LOAN

1.5% Fast Car Loan 3677523/24

1.5% Fast Car Loan 6560140

1HR FastCarLoan 7125202

2% w/o Taking Car 7221021

2% w/o Taking Car 6567685

2% w/o Taking Car 7262780

2% w/oTaking Car 8870490

2% w/oTaking Car 3732081-82

2% w/oTaking Car 8966630/33

2% w/oTaking Car 3650974/75

2% w/oTaking Car 7228942-43

GENERAL ITEMS FOR SALE

APPLIANCES

CARRIER ULTIMA SERIES 1.5HP
P12,000.00 (0920)5433622

ELECTRONIC & INDUSTRIAL EQUIP

Silverson SL2 Elec Mixer T928-1152 • Cel 0916-2648978

PETS

Dog Trainer 09192050952

DOG TRAINER 4528681

PNOC PETROCHEMICAL DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION
(A WHOLLY OWNED SUBSIDIARY OF THE PHILIPPINE NATIONAL OIL COMPANY)

11/F, BA Lepanto Building
6747 Paseo de Roxas
1227 Makati City, Philippines
Tel. No.: 892-0283
892-0283
810-7181
Fax No.: 892-0340

INVITATION TO REGISTER, APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The PNOC Petrochemical Development Corporation (PPDC) invites interested Filipino contractors currently accredited with the Philippine Contractors Accreditation Board (PCAB), and in good standing to register, apply for eligibility and if subsequenly found eligible, to bid for the following projects described below:

Project Title	Approved Budget	PCAB License Minimum Reqt.	Scope of Work/Duration	Similar Contracts
1. PPDC Jetty Piles Corrosion Protection Project (WSC-02-010)	P18,303,150.00	Port, Harbor and Offshore Engineering / Medium B	Application of Corrosion Protection System / 180 CD	Construction of Ports, Harbor and Pier Facilities
2. Construction of PPDC Environmental Laboratory (WSC-03-001)	P5,600,000.00	Building and Industrial Plant / Medium A	Construction of 200 sq.m. laboratory building / 150 CD	Construction of Building and Industrial Facilities

A. Both projects are to be located at the Petrochemical Industrial Estate (PIE) in Limay and Mariveles, Bataan, with funding to be provided by PPDC.

B. Only contractors duly registered with PPDC shall be allowed to participate in the eligibility screening. Interested bidders must register not later than the deadline of submission of a Letter of Intent (LOI) on **June 25, 2003**. A list of basic requirements for registration is available from the BAC Secretariat at the above address.

C. Eligibility statement forms will be issued to registered bidders from **June 16 - July 4, 2003**, upon payment of a non-refundable fee of P100.00 per project.

D. Application for Eligibility shall be evaluated using a "PASS/FAIL" criteria, and only eligible bidders shall be allowed to participate in the bidding. All bids equal to or lower than the Approved Budget for the Contract to be bid shall be evaluated based on the responsiveness of the Contractor's offer, subject to Post-qualification before an award is made. Bid prices submitted higher than the Approved Budget for the Contract to be Bid shall be rejected and returned outright.

E. SCHEDULE OF ACTIVITIES:
Submission of Eligibility requirements - **July 11, 2003**
Issuance of Bid Documents - **August 2 - 11, 2003**
Pre-bid Conference - **August 14, 2003**
Submission and Opening of Bids - **August 29, 2003**

F. All particulars relative to registration, eligibility, bidding, evaluation of bids, and award of contract shall be governed by the provisions of Executive Order No. 40 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations.

G. PPDC reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids or parts thereof, to waive any defect or informality therein; or accept such bid or award any part thereof to any bidder/s whose bid/s is/are considered most advantageous to PPDC. PPDC further assumes no obligation whatsoever to compensate or indemnify the bidders for any expenses or loss they may incur in the preparation of their bids, nor does it guarantee that an award will be made.

(Sgd.) **VICTORIO MARIO A. DIMAGIBA**
Chairman, Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI - June 5 & 13, 2003)

GENERAL ITEMS FOR SALE

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B/SELL EDUCL PLAN 8061574

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5633742 0917-8473744

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7220433 • 4123543

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

FEMALE

LEGAL RESEARCHER LLB 7422521

MAID YAYA LABA 7462906

Secretary Computer Literate
•937-8649/8651•

MALE/FEMALE

FREE CAREGIVER TRAINING 5212773 4043528 5280730

MKTG STF 09167054672 ECHO

Mngt Staff 09186532375 Ana

Tindera M/F 747-0360

PUBLIC NOTICES

ANNOUNCEMENT

Notice is hereby given that the heirs of the late spouses LEON C. VINOYA and RUFINA B. DELA CRUZ executed an extrajudicial settlement and partition and special power of Attorney for TCT No.79108 Mla. OCTs P-2723,P2722,P2721 and P-2720 Bukidnon on June 3,2003 as per Doc. 489 Page No.98 Book No. 12 series of 2003 of Notary Public ISRAEL E. PEREN of the City of Manila
(PDI June 5,12 & 19,2003)

PUBLIC NOTICES

AUCTION SALE

MARA PAWNSHOP BR. of 2230 M. Roxas St. Sta. Ana Manila. Auction Sale on June 13, 2003, Fri. at 2:30 in the afternoon, Respectively, Jan. 13-Feb. 13, 2003
SONS OF J. LANUZA, Auctioneer.

MARA PAWNSHOP
I, II, III, IV and Comembo Br.
of Makati City.
AUCTION SALE on June 13, 2003, Fri. at 10:30, 11:30, 1:30, 12:30 and 8:30 in the morning and on the afternoon, respectively Jan. 13-Feb. 13, 2003.
Sons of J. Lanuza,
Auctioneer

MI MARA PAWNSHOP of 251 Quirino Ave., Baclaran Paranaque. M.M. Auction Sale on June 13 2003, Fri. at 4:00 in the afternoon. Respectively, Jan. 13-Feb. 13, 2003. Sons of J. Lanuza, Auctioneer.

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late MELENCIO S. MANIO & BRIGIDA D. MANIO of Bamban Tarlac was extrajudicially settled among the heirs as per Doc# 197, Page#40, Book#1, Series of 2003 of Notary Public Adennsigua of Capas, Tarlac.
(PDI-May 29, June 5, & 12 2003)

NAKANO TONYEH INTERNATIONAL, INC.
is in need of:

QUALITY ASSURANCE MANAGER

1. Oversee the quality and development of the products to be exported to various country.
2. Male, can speak and Korean language. At least 5 years experience related with the manufacturing recycled wear and other textile products.
3. Can work under pressure.
4. Has valid and renewable Korean visa.

Applicants may send their resumé together with their valid passport to:
Atty. Severo C. Pastor, Jr.
Bldg. 255 Barry Road SBFZ, 222

Athena Body & Beauty Products
is in need of

FIELD SALES REPRESENTATIVE

Female, Excellent Sales Communication Skills,
Experienced, Part/Full Time
Up to P30T monthly income
Bring Biodata, Mon-Sat, 11:00 a.m. onwards
**G/F Estuar Bldg., 41 Timog Avenue,
Quezon City
Tel. No. 374-7011 to 13**

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w/ free delivery 7120743

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96 MB-100 / 98 Starex T637-7306

RTW Consign 09167940002

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Republic of the Philippines
MANILA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT AUTHORITY
Ninoy Aquino International Airport, Metro Manila

INVITATION FOR CONSULTING SERVICES

The Manila International Airport Authority (MIAA) invites eligible Filipino consulting firms duly registered with the Department of Trade and Industry or the Securities and Exchange Commission for the purpose of drawing a long list from which a selection shall be made for the **Preparation of Environmental Impact Study for Securing the Environmental Compliance Certificate and Permit to Operate for the existing MIAA Administration Building.**

The selected Consultant who shall be screened and evaluated by the MIAA Prequalification, Evaluation and Award Committee (MIAA-PEAC) in accordance with procedures of the NEDA Guidelines on the Procurement of Consulting Services for Government Projects (Implementing Rules and Regulations of Executive Order No. 164), shall be responsible in conducting an initial Environmental Examination report and provide assistance to MIAA in the processing of the required Environmental Compliance Certificate (ECC) and Permit to Operate (PO) for the MIAA Administration Building.

Consultants who wish to offer their services are requested to express their desire to do so and submit an official letter of intent together with their duly accomplished and notarized prequalification statements, as provided under Appendix A of the NEDA Guidelines, not later than June 16, 2003 at the Pavements and Grounds Division, MIAA Engineering Building, MIA Road, Pasay City during official business hours only. Prequalification Forms may also be secured from the Pavements and Grounds Division Office from June 9 to 11, 2003.

(Sgd.) **ELPIDIO L. MENDOZA**
Chairman
MIAA-PEAC

(PDI–June 5 & 11, 2003)

POEA
24-HR HOTLINES
722-1144 .722-1155

TransCo

National Transmission Corporation

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

1. Contract Code : **Sp02.BTRP.Le-0347, Schedule II**
   Title : **Construction and Installation of 230 & 69kV Substation Equipment and Various Facilities for MakBan Substation under Batangas Transmission Reinforcement Project**
   Location : **Brgy. Bitin, Bay, Laguna (Luzon)**
2. The works to be performed by the Contractor shall consist of furnishing labor, materials, equipment, supplies, tools and technical services including hauling, delivery, installing and testing of substation equipment and materials to complete the 230 & 69kV MakBan Substation under the Batangas Transmission Reinforcement Project. The work also includes site development and construction of a control house and warehouse.
3. The Approved Budget for the Contract to be Bid is **Ninety Million Three Hundred Eighty Five Thousand Nine Hundred Sixty Six Pesos (P90,385,966.00)** from the Internal Cash Generation of National Transmission Corporation.
4. Application for Eligibility is open to Filipino contractors who have the legal, technical and financial requisites of the contract to be bid/project with the following License and Registration Particulars:
   License : AAA 'Specialty: Electrical Works'
   Registration : Large 'B' - specialty: Electrical Works
5. Application for Eligibility shall be evaluated using "PASS/FAIL" criteria and only Eligible Bidders shall be invited by Transco in the bidding. All bids equal to or lower than the Approved Budget for the Contract to be Bid shall be evaluated based on the responsiveness of the contractor's offer to the contract under bidding subject to Postqualification before an award is made. Bid Prices submitted higher than the Approved Budget for the Contract to be Bid shall be rejected and returned outright.
6. Eligibility Documents and Forms will be available for issuance on **May 30, 2003** at the Bids and Contracts Management Department, Second Floor, Building No. 2, NPC-OBC, National Transmission Corporation, Agham Road corner Quezon Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City 1104, Telefax No.: 921-2308 upon presentation of Letter of Intent, Contractor's License and a payment of non-refundable fee of **One Thousand Pesos (P1,000)** per copy.
7. Deadline for submission of duly accomplished Application for Eligibility, Forms, documents and statements shall be on or before 2:00 p.m. of **June 30, 2003** and shall be submitted at the registration office and address mentioned above. If the date is a non-working day or declared non-working day, the deadline for submission shall be moved to the next working day immediately following said date. Late submission and/or incomplete application shall not be accepted.
8. Contractor, not yet included in the Transco's List of Registered Contractors, who wishes to participate in the public bidding, in order to facilitate eligibility check/screening, are requested to register with the registration office mentioned above by submitting the following basic requirements which should be maintained current and updated at least once a year. A Certificate of Registration will be issued to contractors upon approval.
   - Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) business name registration or Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) registration certificate, as appropriate;
   - Mayor's permit and/or municipal license for the current year;
   - Taxpayer's Identification Number;
   - Notarized statement of the prospective bidder that it is not "blacklisted" or barred from bidding by any government agency, office or corporation, including, in the case of procurement of civil works, non-inclusion in the "blacklist" of contractors issued by the CIAP;
   - Audited financial statements, stamped "received" by the BIR or its duly accredited and authorized institutions, for the immediately preceding calendar year, showing, among others, the prospective bidder's total and current assets and liabilities inclusive of Income Tax Return and Receipt;
   - Contractor's License
9. TransCo reserves the right to reject any Application for Eligibility or all Bids or request for registration without offering any reasons, waive any required formality therein, and to make an award to the bidder whose proposal is most advantageous to the government.
10. Additional information shall be furnished upon request. All communications should be addressed to the undersigned at the aforementioned address.

(Sgd.) WINIFREDO SM. PANGILINAN
Chairman, Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI - June 5, 8 & 11, 2003)

BCDA

BASES CONVERSION DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

INVITATION FOR PROPOSALS

ASSET DISPOSITION PROGRAM – PHASE 2

The Bases Conversion Development Authority (BCDA) is inviting interested proponents to participate in Phase 2 of BCDA's Asset Disposition Program (ADP Phase 2). ADP Phase 2 involves the development and privatization of Bonifacio South Lots 4 and 5 of BLock 55 at Fort Bonifacio, Taguig, Metro Manila covering an approximate total area of 3,266 square meters.

Interested proponents may submit their Letters of Interest to BCDA and can purchase the Terms of Reference (TOR) for ADP Phase 2 that outlines, among others, the requirements that will enable proponents to participate in the privatization.

The TOR for the Bonifacio South Lots 4 and 5 in Block 55 will be ready for distribution to interested proponents by 09 June 2003 at the BCDA offices. A non-refundable cost of the TOR is PhP5,000.00 payable to BCDA in Cash or Manager's Check.

A conference among interested proponents is tentatively set for 2:00 p.m., 19 June 2003. The objective of the conference is to discuss the property, the TOR and other clarifications from interested proponents. Interested proponents will be informed of the final schedule and venue of the conference through contact numbers submitted to the BCDA.

Interested proponents can direct their inquiries to:

THE CHAIRMAN
ADP COMMITTEE-2
BCDA Corporate Center
Gozar corner Lucas Streets
Villamor Air Base, Pasay City

or they can contact Ms. Aileen R. Zosa or Ms. Bambie L. Andal at telephone numbers 510-0424 or 510-0425 or at arzosa@bcda.gov.ph or bandal@bcda.gov.ph.

(Sgd.) Chairman
ADP Committee-2

(PDI–June 5, 11 & 17, 2003)

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REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
REGIONAL TRIAL COURT OF MANILA
BRANCH 4

IN THE MATTER OF THE
RECTIFICATION OF SIMULATED
BIRTH, DECLARATION OF
ABANDONMENT AND ADOPTION OF
MINOR AUDI C. PANGILINAN,

SP. PROC. NO. 03-105901

DANILO L. PANGILINAN and
CYNTHIA C. PANGILINAN,
Petitioners.

x---x

ORDER

This is a verified petition for rectification of simulated birth, declaration of abandonment and adoption of minor Audi C. Pangilinan filed by Sps. Danilo L. Pangilinan and Cynthia C. Pangilinan, praying that after due notice, publication and hearing, a judgment be rendered rectifying the simulated birth of said minor, declaring Audi C. Pangilinan as an abandoned child and adopted child of herein petitioners

Finding the petition to be sufficient in form and substance, let this petition be set for hearing on July 18, 2003, at 2:00 p.m. before this Court located at Rm. 364, third flr., City Hall, Manila after this Order shall have been published at the expense of the petitioner in a newspaper of general circulation in the Philippines once a week for three (3) consecutive weeks after raffle. All interested persons in this petition may appear at the aforesaid date of hearing and show cause, if any, why this petition should not be granted.

The Department of Social Worker and Development is hereby ordered to conduct a social case study on the subject minor and submit its report thereon to this Court together with its consent to adoption on or before the scheduled hearing of this petition. Likewise, the Social Worker of this Court, Ms. Eleonor M. Magluro, is hereby ordered to prepare her own Child and Home Study Reports and to conduct counseling sessions with the biological parents of the adoptee, if any and to submit her report on or before the scheduled hearing of this petition.

Let a copy of this Order and the copy of the petition be served upon the Office of the Solicitor General, Public Prosecutor, Department of Social Welfare and Development, social worker of this Court and the biological parents of the adoptee, if any, and the same be posted at the Bulletin Board in the premises of this Court, at three conspicuous places, at the expense of the petitioners.

SO ORDERED.

Manila, March 31, 2003.

(Sgd.) SOCORRO B. INTING
Judge

(PDI–May 29, June 5 & 12, 2003)

Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

DEPARTMENT CIRCULAR NO. DC 2003-06-007

FURTHER AMENDING SECTION 14 OF DEPARTMENT CIRCULAR NO. 98-03-004 ENTITLED "RULES AND REGULATIONS IMPLEMENTING REPUBLIC ACT 8479, DOWNSTREAM OIL INDUSTRY DEREGULATION ACT OF 1998," AS AMENDED

Section 1. Coverage

Pursuant to Chapter VII, Section 23 of Republic Act No. 8479, otherwise known as the "Downstream Oil Industry Deregulation Act of 1998," Section 14 (paragraph) c of Department Circular No. 98-03-004, as amended by Department Circular No. 2002-05-001, is hereby further amended to read as follows:

"SECTION 14. Promotion of Retail Competition

xxx

c. Grant of Gasoline Station Loan

(1) The Gasoline Station Lending and Financial Assistance Program

The Gasoline Station Lending and Financial Assistance Program (hereinafter referred to as the Program) is designed to provide credit assistance to New Industry Participants (Borrowers) whose owners successfully complete the two-fold program on management and skills training in the retailing of Petroleum Products for the establishment, operation, improvement, management and maintenance of gasoline stations within the current deregulated environment. The financial assistance covers the retailing of all Petroleum Products sold in gasoline stations, including LPG.

(2) Program Fund

Pursuant to Section 10 of R.A. 8479, the total amount (Program Fund) earmarked for the Program is Ninety-Four Percent (94%) of the Three Hundred Million Pesos, equivalent to Two Hundred Eighty-Two Million Pesos (P282M). This Program Fund shall be made available by the Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corporation (PAGCOR) through the DOE and administered by the Development Bank of the Philippines (DBP). The DBP and the DBP-Trust Services (DBP-TS) shall administer the Program Fund under a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) dated January 23, 2003. This Program Fund shall be placed in two (2) special accounts with DBP-TS, which is tasked to perform fund management functions and loan administration services to monitor fund disbursement and collection. The DBP-TS shall maintain two (2) books of accounts for the Program Fund and a subsidiary ledger account of all borrowers.

All repayments, including amortization payments of principal and interest earnings, shall accrue to the "Second Generation Fund" in accordance with the MOA.

The Program Fund shall assume the credit risk of Borrowers.

(3) Eligible Borrowers

The following Borrowers shall be qualified to avail of the Program.

(i) Natural persons who successfully completed the two-fold program on management and skills training for the establishment, operation, management and maintenance of gasoline stations; or
(ii) Corporations, partnerships, cooperatives, associations, non-government organizations, joint ventures, consortia, single proprietorships and similar parties whose owners/representatives successfully completed the two-fold program on management and skills training for the establishment, operation, management and maintenance of gasoline stations.

Employees of the DOE and its attached agencies namely, the National Electrification Administration, Philippine National Oil Company and its subsidiaries, National Power Corporation, Private Sector Assets and Liabilities Management (PSALM) and Transmission Company (TRANSCO) are disqualified from applying for the gasoline station loan during their employment in the said offices or entities and up to a period of one (1) year after the time of their resignation or separation from the services of such offices or entities. In addition, relatives up to the fourth civil degree either consanguinity or affinity of members of the Executive Committee (ExCom) of the DOE, Chief Executive Officers and the members of the Board of Directors/Administrators of such attached agencies shall not be qualified to apply for the gasoline station loan while said officials are in the service of such offices/entities up to a period of one (1) year after their resignation or separation from the service of said offices or entities.

(4) Eligible Loan Purposes

The following Loan Purposes shall be eligible for funding under the Program:

(i) Purchase and installation of equipment to be used for the operation of a gasoline station including, but not limited to, dispensing pumps, underground tanks, filters, compressors;
(ii) Purchase and installation of equipment related to safety and environmental protection including, but not limited to, fire extinguishers, water tanks;
(iii) Construction and concreting of pump islands;
(iv) Purchase of initial inventory of Petroleum Products from suppliers of good standing not exceeding One Million Pesos (P1 million);
(v) Purchase of brand new LPG cylinders not to exceed forty (40) cylinders;
(vi) Purchase and installation of other similar equipment as may be approved by OIAB.

(5) Equity Participation

A minimum of fifty percent (50%) of the total Project cost, including existing land and improvements made by the Borrower, shall serve as equity of said Borrower.

(6) Loanable Amount/Terms of the Loan

All eligible projects (Projects) can avail of the one hundred percent (100%) loanable amount provided that such amount shall not exceed fifty percent (50%) of the total Project cost or Five Million Pesos (P5,000,000.00), whichever is lower. The maximum term of the loan shall be seven (7) years and payments of principal shall be made monthly; Provided, that the first installment shall be due within six (6) months from the date of initial release of the loan proceeds.

(7) Interest Rate

Interest on the loan shall be fixed at six percent (6%) per annum and shall be payable monthly in arrears starting six (6) months after the release of loan.

(8) Penalties

Late payments shall be subject to a penalty of twenty-four percent (24%) per annum based on past due amortizations, computed from due date of such amortization until fully paid.

(9) Collateral Requirements

Loans may be secured by any or a combination of the following collaterals:

(i) Real estate mortgage for up to sixty percent (60%) of appraised value;
(ii) Chattel mortgage for up to seventy-five percent (75%) of appraised value;
(iii) Assets acquired out of loan proceeds and other applicable securities specific to the Projects, such as but not limited to the following:
   1. Real estate mortgage;
   2. Chattel mortgage on Project assets;
   3. Assignment of insurance coverage;
   4. Assignment of leasehold contract; and/or
   5. Joint and several signatures (JSS) of stockholders and/or key officers
(iv) Assignment of leasehold contract; and
(v) Joint and several signatures (JSS) of stockholders/key officers.

(10) Loan Disbursement

Loan proceeds shall be disbursed upon one hundred percent (100%) completion of the equity requirement. For civil works, loan releases for the construction and concreting of pump islands (including canopy), shall be made in two (2) tranches based on the development of the civil works.

An initial fifty percent (50%) of the total approved loan shall be released provided that one hundred percent (100%) of the equity has been complied with. The balance of the approved amount shall be made upon full completion of the civil works.

(11) Loan Application and Acceptance

(i) Persons interested to participate in the Program shall submit the following documents to the Oil Industry Administration Bureau (OIAB) of the DOE:
   1. Duly accomplished Application Form (Annex 1);
   2. Check payable to the DOE in the amount of Five Thousand Five Hundred Pesos (P5,500.00) as application fee;
   3. Check payable to DBP in the amount of Twenty Thousand Pesos (P20,000.00) as processing fee (to be returned to Borrower if his application fails initial evaluation);
   4. DOE Certificate of Completion of the two-fold training program;
   5. DTI or SEC Registration and Articles of Incorporation, as applicable;
   6. Feasibility Study of the Project including the location and layout of the proposed gasoline station, proposed supplier/s, manpower complement and other similar information; and
   7. Environmental Compliance Certificate (ECC) issued by the DENR for stations ready to operate, or ECC application letter duly received by the Environmental Monitoring Bureau of the DENR for stations still to be established.
(ii) The DOE, through its OIAB shall undertake a preliminary evaluation of the application which shall include, but not be limited to, the checking of eligibility criteria, identification and inspection of the proposed site and other relevant matters.
(iii) Within fifteen (15) working days from receipt of the application, the OIAB shall submit the results of its evaluation and its recommendation to the DOE Review Committee (RC).
(iv) The DOE RC shall deliberate on the OIAB findings and recommendation within five (5) working days from receipt of such OIAB recommendation. Applications that merit funding assistance shall be immediately endorsed by the DOE RC to the DBP, together with the processing fee, for credit investigation, appraisal of offered collaterals and final evaluation. Applications not found qualified to avail of the Program Fund shall be returned to the OIAB which shall immediately inform the applicant of the DOE Review Committee's decision.

(12) Loan Approval/Denial

(i) The DBP, through its lending units in the Branch Banking Sector (BBS) and the Development Banking Sector (DBS) Head Office, shall undertake the investigation and evaluation of the loan applications and forward to the OIAB their recommendation for approval within twenty-five (25) working days from receipt of such application.
   1. A recommendation for approval shall be supported by a credit application which shall be returned to DBP upon the DOE's approval.
   2. In the event of a denial, the DBP shall return all documents to the DOE Review Committee with a written explanation citing the reason(s) for the denial together with the evaluation reports.
(ii) The OIAB shall act on the DBP's favorable findings and recommendations by issuing a Notice of Approval to approved credit applications to the DBP together with the complete requirements, copy furnished the Loan Administrator (DBP-TS) within five (5) working days from receipt of said recommendation. In case of disapproval, the OIAB shall directly inform the applicants.

(13) Loan Documentation and Release

(i) The DBP, through its BBS and/or Program Management I/Program Management II (PMI/PMII) shall, upon receipt of the Notice of Approval from the OIAB, undertake the following:
   1. Require the approved Borrower to submit documentary requirements including post-dated checks.
   2. Prepare and cause the execution of required loan documents such as the loan agreement, promissory note, mortgage contract and other security documents. The loan agreement shall be executed by representatives of the Borrower of the DOE, and duly witnessed by representatives from the DBP.
   3. Verify compliance with all pre-release conditions. If all conditions are complied with, the DBP shall forward the necessary documents to DBP-TS, which is the duly designated Loan Administrator, with the written instruction for the release of the loan, copy furnished the OIAB.
(ii) The DBP shall serve as the clearing office for transactions under this Program. Loan approvals, releases and related transactions from the branches shall be forwarded to DBP-TS for release and/or recording and booking.
(iii) The DBP-TS shall, upon receipt of the written instructions from the DBP, prepare the necessary check release to qualified Borrowers. For branch releases, the DBP-TS shall transfer funds to the branch concerned which shall, in turn, prepare the check release and issue the check in favor of the Borrower. The branch shall advise DBP-TS of the actual date of release to Borrower.

(14) Account Management

For account management, the DBP-TS shall have the following responsibilities:

(i) Book loan releases and maintain subsidiary and general ledgers;
(ii) Send the appropriate billing statements and collection letters to Borrowers;
(iii) Remit monthly to the Bureau of Treasury, through the DOE, all earnings/income, net of fees, accruing to the General and Second Generation Fund;
(iv) Render regular reports including, but not limited to, financial statements, schedule of investments and other related reports; and
(v) Perform such other functions as may be necessary to comply with the foregoing.

(15) Collection of Loan Payments

The DBP shall be responsible for sending the appropriate collection letters and/or reminders to the Borrowers. On the amortization due date, the DBP shall deposit the applicable postdated check issued by the Borrower for application as loan payment and on the same day remit the collection to the Loan Administrator. All loan payments shall be credited by the DBP-TS to the Second Generation Fund.

(16) Reportorial Requirements

All borrowers shall submit Quarterly Reports to the OIAB commencing from the start of commercial operation and fifteen (15) days after the end of each succeeding quarter to include volume of sales and records of Petroleum Products deliveries (by product, by supplier) and other information requested by DOE.

(17) Non-Transferability Clause

The Borrower shall neither assign nor transfer the operation of the gasoline station subject of the loan application without express written consent of the DOE during the term of the Loan Agreement.

(18) Standards of Quality

The construction, operation, improvement and maintenance of the gasoline station subject of the loan applications shall be in accordance with existing and future standards promulgated for the industry or with international standards of quality. Only products meeting the Philippine National Standard (PNS) shall be dispensed at the stations. Moreover, these stations shall be operated and maintained in conformance with all rules and regulations of the DOE.

(19) Sanctions

Sanctions shall be imposed on the following offenses:

(i) Non-conformity with applicable standards for fuel, facilities and practices – Penalties imposed pursuant to DOE regulations
(ii) Late/Non-payment of monthly amortization – Penalty provided under the Loan Agreement
(iii) Transfer of operation of the gasoline station without consent of the DOE – Penalty shall include termination of Loan Agreement and other relevant penalties

Section 2. Repealing Clause

Any Department Orders, Circulars or Issuances inconsistent with this Circular are hereby repealed or modified accordingly;

Section 3. Separability Clause

If, for any reason or reasons, any part of this Circular is declared by a court of competent jurisdiction as unconstitutional or invalid, the other parts or provisions not so declared shall not be affected thereby.

Section 4. Effectivity

This Deparment Circular No. DC 2003-06-007 shall take effect upon its publication in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Issued in Fort Bonifacio, Taguig, Metro Manila, this 30 day of May 2003.

Vincent S. Pérez

VINCENT S. PÉREZ, JR.
Secretary

DOE GASOLINE STATION AND FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

APPLICATION FORM

NAME:
Date:
ADDRESS:

Requirements Submitted:
- ☐ Bio-data of Applicant/Major Stockholders/Officers
- ☐ Certificate of Completion of the two-fold training program
- ☐ Certificate of Registration of Business/Articles of Partnership or Incorporation/By-Laws
- ☐ Feasibility Study (including proposed location of gasoline station, proposed suppliers)
- ☐ Board Resolution authorized the borrowing & designating Authorized Signatories for the loan
- ☐ Certified List of Stockholders and Officers
- ☐ Contact person & telephone No./address/authority to inspect
- ☐ Income Tax Return (last 3 years)
- ☐ Customer Information Report
- ☐ ECC or Letter of Application to DENR for ECC Issuance

On Lot/Building
- ☐ 2 copies of lot plan, certified by a Geodetic Engineer
- ☐ Location/Vicinity Map
- ☐ 2 photo copies of TCT/OCT authenticated by the Registry of Deeds
- ☐ Latest Real Estate Tax Declaration & Tax Receipt
- ☐ Bill of Materials, Building plans and Specifications
- ☐ Building permit (to be submitted before construction)

On Machinery and Equipment
- ☐ Affidavit of ownership & Non-incumberance of machineries & equipment with complete machine specifications
- ☐ Supplier's quotation of machinery & equipment with complete technical specifications for machinery to be acquired
- ☐ Contract to sell for machinery and equipment to be acquired
- ☐ Copy of Certificate of Registration with LTO for transportation equipment

Received By:	**Date:**	**Applicant's Signature**

(PDI — June 5, 2003)

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LEANDRO OSORIO SAN PEDRO

March 13, 1927 - June 2, 2003

His wife **Anching**; children **Percy, Wilbert & Elvie, Ricky & Edith, Claver & Mina**; grandchildren; sister **Nieves**; brother **Berting**; and other relatives request your prayers for the eternal repose of his soul.

His body lies in state at Chapel C, Garden of Memories Memorial Park, Bagong Calzada, Pateros, Metro Manila.

Interment will be on Saturday, June 7, 2003 after the 2 p.m. Mass.

"Our Dearly Beloved"

CATALINO "Tatang Inong" SARMIENTO TALAVERA

(November 25, 1916 - May 26, 2003)

Peacefully joined our Creator on May 26, 2003 at the age of 86

His loving wife Rosario "Chayong", children and in-laws Nanding & Lilia, Gening & Eddie, Dading & Claudio, Sylvia & Rod, Benny & Oyie, Dante & Lolet, Eddie & Eloisa, Melba & Andy; grandchildren Bong, Caloy, Zuki, Edna, Joey, Phen, Pochay, Roderick, Rodney, Rodel, Roddie, Cynthia, Charie, Jojo, Bulyot, Gilbert, Dale, Uman, Edel, Paulo, Elise, Melissa, Andrew, Gerald; great grandchildren Tobi, Bien, Lui, Zeth, Zhen, Derrick, Kiana, Mikee; relatives and friends would appreciate prayers for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at Poblacion 3, Gerona, Tarlac. Interment will be at the Parish Church of Saint Catherine of Alexandria, Gerona, Tarlac.

Atty. ENRIQUE "Iking" C. VILLANUEVA

Died in the Grace of Our Lord
May 22, 2003
at Los Angeles, California, USA

His loving children **Novel, Cecil, Mario, Manny, Benjie, Eva** and **Nelson** and their spouses; brother **Cecilio** and sisters **Gloria** and **Virginia**; grandchildren; relatives and friends mourn his passing and request fervent prayers for the repose of his soul.

His body lies in state at the Immaculate Conception Parish Church, Sta. Cruz, Laguna. Necrological services will be held on Friday, June 6, 2003 at 7:00 p.m.

Funeral Mass will be on Saturday, June 7, 2003 at 9:00 a.m. Burial will follow at the Garden of Peace Memorial Park, Bagumbayan, Sta. Cruz, Laguna.

CONCEPCION "Ching" TURLA BUENDIA

of Lubao, Pampanga and Makati City

Passed away in the Grace of our Lord
on June 3, 2003 at the age of 83.

Her loving children **Tito & Conni, Bob, Jimi, Connie & Manolet** and **Debbie**; grandchildren **Tintin, Patrick, Ma. Cecilia, Brian & Lulu, Karen, Jamie, Vico, Bea, Gabs, Miggy** and **Donald**; great grandchild **Jayden**; relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at the Tanguile Chapel, La Funeraria Paz-Sucat (inside Manila Memorial Park) Parañaque City.

Interment will be on Saturday, June 7, 2003 at Manila Memorial Park after the 1:00 p.m. Mass.

CONSOLACION L. SARABIA

22 October - 01 June 2003

Conching peacefully joined her Creator at the age of 67. Her bereaved husband, Jaime and children Dondi and Jennie, Grace and Elmer, Raymund and Tina; mother Siniang Lumbang; grandchildren Tricia, Ai, AJ, CJ, and Francis; sisters Eding, Mely and Baby and brother Tony request the readers to join them in praying for her eternal happiness in heaven.

Her body lies in state at the Our Lady of Miraculous Medal Parish, Camerino cor. A. Legaspi Sts., Project 4, Quezon City.

Interment will be announced later.

LT. JOSE EPITACIO E. MENDIOLA

of Tanauan, Leyte and Cavite

Passed away in the Grace of our Lord
on June 3, 2003 at the age of 70.

His loving wife **Aurora**; sisters **Encarnacion, Enriqueta** (†), **Elisa** (†), **Estrella** (†); brother **Ernesto** (†), sons, daughters, sons-in-law, daughters-in-law, grandchildren and other relatives request the readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at Lumbang Chapel, La Funeraria Paz-Sucat (inside Manila Memorial Park).

Interment to be announced later.

In loving memory of

Luz Puyat Martel

1924-1995

on her 79th Birthday,
Holy Masses will be offered in the following Churches:

SANTUARIO DE SAN ANTONIO Forbes Park, Makati City	7:30 a.m.
ST. ANDREW THE APOSTLE PARISH Kalayaan Avenue, Bel-Air, Makati City	6:30 a.m.
SANTUARIO DE SAN JOSE Greenhills, San Juan, Metro Manila	6:15 p.m.
ST. VINCENT DE PAUL CHURCH San Marcelino, Ermita, Manila	7:15 a.m.
OUR LADY OF EDSA SHRINE Ortigas Avenue, Pasig City	5:30 p.m.
DON BOSCO PARISH, ST. JOHN Pasay Road, Makati City	7:30 a.m.
HARRISON PLAZA CHAPEL Harrison Plaza, Malate, Manila	5:30 p.m.
ASSUMPTION PARISH Leveriza St., Malate, Manila	6:00 a.m.
MANILA CATHEDRAL Intramuros, Manila	7:30 a.m.
ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST PARISH Quiapo, Manila	7:30 a.m.
ST. ALPHONSUS MARY DE LIGUORI PARISH Humabon Place, Magallanes Village, Makati City	6:15 p.m.
OUR LADY OF SORROW F.B. Harrison, Pasay City	7:00 a.m.

Her family requests all pious readers to remember her in their prayers.

ATTY. NAPOLEON MEDIDA SESANTE

Police Senior Superintendent
PMA "Magilas" Class of 1976

Peacefully joined the Lord on May 27, 2003
at the age of 48.

His loving family: wife **Maribel**; children **Kristen Marie, Christian Ione, Kenneth Kerrn** and **Karisna Kate**; and other relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

Interment will be on June 7, 2003 in Boljoon, Cebu after the 9:00 a.m. Holy Mass and necrological service.

"Dios, tú mi Dios, yo te busco, sed de ti tiene mi alma,
en pos de ti languidece mi carne, cual tierra seca, agotada, sin agua."

Salmo 63

ADRIAN P. GOT

Passed away in the Grace of our Lord on June 1, 2003, Davao City

His loving parents, **Jose Ramon** (†) and **Ma. Dolores**; sisters **Regina & Javier** (†), **Alexandra & Francisco, Desiree**; nieces and nephews **Adrienne & Eduardo, Nicole, Pablo,** and **Guillermo**; request your prayers for the eternal repose of his soul.

Interment and Holy Mass will be held on June 6, 2003, 10:30 a.m. at San Agustin Church, Intramuros, Manila.

"Come to Me, all you who are weary and burdened and I will give you rest."

Eng'r. Jaime T. Lopez, Jr.

of Moncada, Tarlac and Binangonan, Rizal

Peacefully joined his Creator on June 3, 2003 at the age of 67.

His loving wife **Editha Lagarejos Lopez**; children **Maricar, Jonathan & Girlie, Johann & Mariz**; and grandson **Sammy**; brothers and sisters, in-laws, nephews and nieces, grandchildren, relatives and friends request the pious readers to offer prayers for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains now lie in state at the Arlington Memorial Chapels, Araneta Avenue, Quezon City and will be transferred to the family residence at 399 Calumpang, Binangonan, Rizal on Friday afternoon, June 6, 2003.

Interment will be on Tuesday, June 10, 2003 at the Sto. Rosario Memorial Park, Binangonan, Rizal after the 2:00 p.m. Mass.

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Day One — June 23, 2003
1 Leadership in Education: Aiming for Higher Values — Prof. Nieves R. Confesor, Dean, Asian Institute of Management *
2 Eurekal: Making Analytic Subjects Fun to Learn — Ms. Queena Lee-Chua, TOYM Awardee & Columnist, Philippine Daily Inquirer
3 Learning with the Brain in Mind: Neurological Basis of Learning Styles and Multiple Intelligences — Dr. Vicente G. Rosales, Jr., Neuro-psychiatrist, UST Faculty of Medicine & Surgery
4 Making Curriculum Relevant to the Needs of the Market Place — Dr. Leonardo R. Garcia, Jr., President, Philippine Marketing Association
5 Lifelong Learning for Lifelong Employability — Dr. Edicio Dela Torre, President, Education Network and Education for Life
6 Creativity in Learning: Sponges, Energizers & Pantomime, Atbp.—Prof. Albert M. Saldajeno, Jr., Director, Tanghalang Henyo Pedagogical Theatre Arts

Day Two — June 24, 2003
7 The Filipino Educator: On Becoming a Servant Leader — Dr. Federico M. Macaranas, Dean — AIM Center for Development Management
8 The Magic of Advertising: Creating Value for the Youth — Ms. Yoly Ong, President, Campaigns and Grey
9 The Teacher: The Heart and Soul of Education — Dr. Nilo L. Rosas, President, Philippine Normal University *
10 Advocacy in Education: Espousing Worthwhile Causes for Social Change — Prof. Ramon "Bong" Osorio, President, International Association of Business Communicators and Campaigns Advocacy
11 Workshop: Where Do We Go From Here? — Prof. Henry S. Tenedero, President, CLTS

* To be Confirmed.

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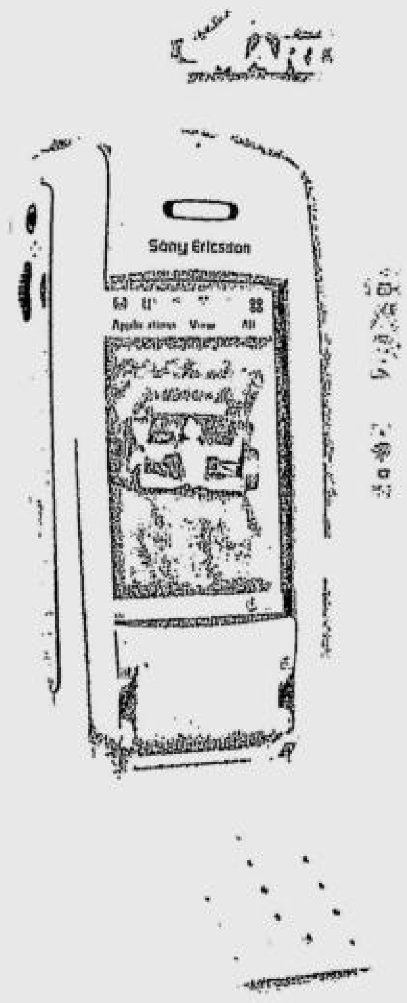
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HondaWorld Show
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Honda Club: Treasure Hunt

2-STROKE ENGINE TRICYCLES

An endangered mode of transport?

Text and photo by Charles E. Buban

(First of two parts).

TRICYCLES using two-stroke engine motorcycles are the country's most popular form of transport.

According to a World Bank study, some 1.02-million two-stroke tricycles ply the roads all over the country. Of these, about 120,000 are found in Metro Manila alone.

Filipinos came to love the two-stroke motorcycles because they are less expensive, have excellent torque or power, fewer moving parts and thus, easy to maintain than their four-stroke engine counterparts.

But the same World Bank study found the two-stroke engines of these tricycles as among the major sources of pollution and revealed it would cost the government nearly $1.5 billion in health care, lost wages and low productivity.

Aside from the financial burden, the World Bank study added that pollution from particle emissions caused about 2,000 premature deaths and 9,000 cases of bronchitis in the country's four largest cities (Manila, Baguio, Cebu and Davao).

High cost

Since the report came out last year, many have called for immediate ban on these motorcycles and tricycles.

FROM SOLO ride motorcycles to tricycles, two-stroke public utility vehicles have evolved to other variants like this four-wheeler "motorela" which are very popular in provinces like Bukidnon in Mindanao

The clamor even went stronger with the Clean Air Act's new emission standards which took effect early this year, requiring public utility vehicles to pass the tests before getting their registrations renewed.

However, the Motorcycle Development Program Participants Association argued that if these moves set to phase out two-strokes motorcycles and tricycles continue, social and political costs of such a move would be high.

"With no backup plan, we will be only inviting unrest. What sort of income-generating business do we give the four-million families depending on this business and what will the government provide the 17-million passengers depending every day on this mode of transport?" asked MDPPA president Alfredo Alarcon.

The MDPPA is an association of legitimate motorcycle manufacturers composed of Honda Philippines Inc., Kawasaki Motor (Phils.) Corp., Norkis Trading Co. Inc. (Yamaha), Porta Coeli Industrial Co., SC Kymco Pilipinas Inc., Suzuki Philippines Inc. and Victoria Motors Corp.

More protests seen

The 4.7 million-strong National Confederation of Tricycle Operators and Drivers Associations of the Philippines (Nactodap) last week appealed to Transportation Secretary Leandro Mendoza to clarify reports that the Land Transportation Office will no longer register two-stroke tricycles.

The group's appeal came after a newspaper report (not the INQUIRER) quoted the secretary as saying the LTO is no longer registering two-stroke tricycles and will also ban the importation of such type of motorcycles allegedly for being a "major source of pollution."

Nactodap president Ariel Lim threatened a repeat of the mass protest his organization staged early this year if this plan pushes through.

Dislocation of members

"We cannot afford to hear statements like that as this would mean the dislocation of our members and dependents whose source of income depends on these two-stroke motorcycles and tricycles," said Lim.

Last January, hundreds of Nactodap members and their tricycles trooped to Malacañang to protest the new anti-pollution law.

The group was able to temporary suspend the Metro Manila Development Authority resolution that phases out two-stroke tricycles as the government promises to review the law.

"Inasmuch as we don't want to increase the number of joblessness as what will result if two-strokes are phased out eventually, we don't want to experience such a scenario wherein the country will be paralyzed because of these numerous protests, a lot of economic opportunities are wasted," said Antonio Medina, chair of Bantay Transportasyon, an NGO rep-

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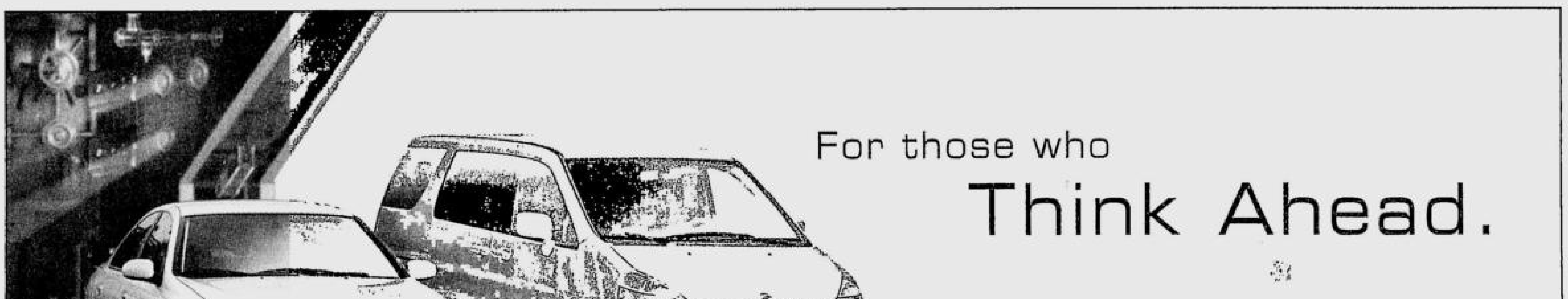

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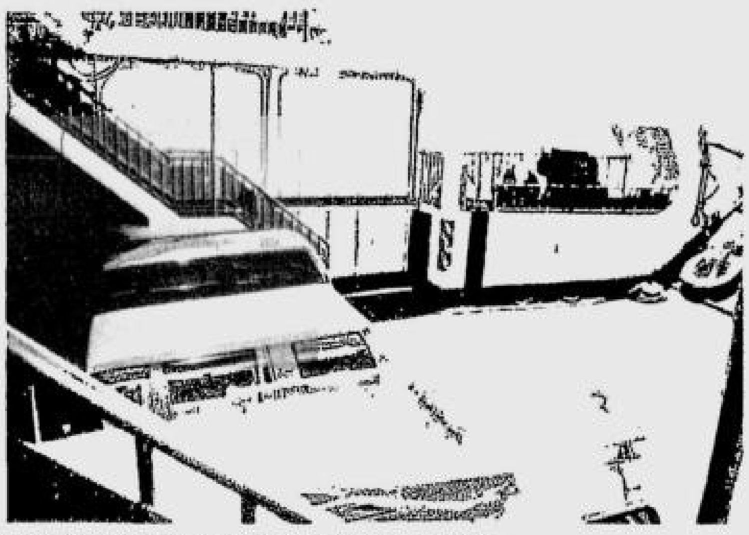
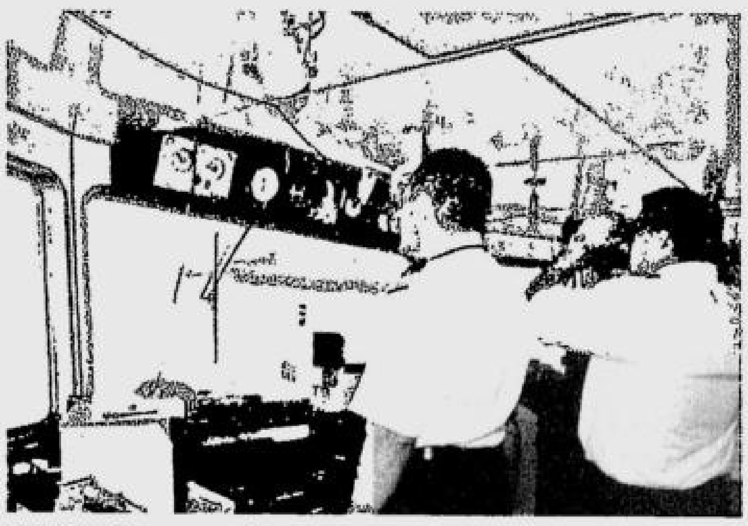


MAHARLIKA III's "shell" cuddling the vehicles



THE SHIP'S crewmen keep close watch at the calm sea.

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SAFETY • FIRST

SERENA "docks" at Caticlan Port. The Serena, by the way, means "mermaid" in the vernacular.

Text and photos by Tessa R. Salazar

HOP in your car, and let your car hop into a ferry. Then go to Boracay. Now that is an unconventional travel package for a conventional tourist destination.

Yes, we made the ubiquitous (and at times notorious) roll-on roll-off ferry boats (conveniently called "roro" boats) the foundation for our rollin', rockin' trip to Boracay this summer.

And what a coincidence, as President Macapagal-Arroyo has been propping up "The Strong Republic Nautical Highway" as a means to, well, primarily improve "farm-to-market" transition of agricultural produce. At the same breath, she promotes the tourism possibilities of this Nautical Highway, which involves highways, sea lanes and roros bridging the islands from Luzon to Mindanao.

Roro adventure

For nonvehicle owners, a roro adventure to Boracay (or anywhere else the Nautical Highway goes) starts when you board the bus at the Ali Mall station in Cubao, Quezon City. When you see destinations such as Caticlan, Tagbilaran, or Davao pasted on the buses, those are not jokes. The buses will take you there in one sitting. A fare of less than P800 will take you straight to Caticlan—the jump-off point to Boracay.

For us, the journey started the moment we turned the car key in the ignition. On board a black QRV-R Serena, six of us set out to the port of Batangas.

Start of paper trail

The ride to the Batangas pier was smooth and traffic-free (it was nearly midnight). But right before we entered the port, the paper trail started. Before we turned left to enter the Batangas Port, we had to stop by an inconspicuous PNP outpost on our right to acquire a police clearance of sorts. Here, we were instructed to produce the vehicle's official receipt and certificate of registration (OR and CR) to be stamped for clearance.

That done with, we had to pay at the Batangas Port entrance P46.50 for "Arrastre," while the Philippine Ports authority charged us P10. We were also asked to proceed to the Coast Guard office to sign the manifest. The two-hour Batangas-Calapan roro ride on the Starlite Ferry costs P87 per passenger. The Serena's freight fee is P665, with the driver's fare waived.

Important reminder

An important reminder for those bringing their vehicles to Boracay: Tell the people manning the lines at Batangas Port that your party is proceeding to Boracay.

You will be given, as they say, "preferential boarding treatment." That means when there is only space left for one more vehicle in the roro ferry, your car will board, while the jeep carrying vegetables, unfortunately, gets left behind and has to wait for the next roro trip, which would take place the next hour.

All papers in, we parked in the belly of the roro ferry. Parking inside the ferry wasn't as difficult as we expected. The seas weren't rough, and we were not packed in like sardines; only about 20 vehicles, including trucks and jeeps laden with produce, were inside the roro that was designed to fit in 30 vehicles.

After securing the van in its place, we roamed around. Expectedly, the amenities of the roro were well-worn by years, perhaps decades, of use. The covers on the seats and sofas looked old. The food and snacks (and mineral water) were offered at reasonable prices, however.

Two hours later, we docked at Calapan, Oriental Mindoro and drov

the well-paved scenic coa

passes to the Roxas City po

At the Roxas Port, we

Stevedoring and Arrastre S

for the Serena, signed the

fest again, paid the ship P

our vehicle and P210 each

raised anchors at 8:30 a.m.

for Caticlan in Panay Island

We were even more loos

AUTO EXTREME
AUTO BYTES

Catch AUTO EXTREME every Saturday, 4 PM on RPN 9 and log on to www.autoextreme.tv

Each week, a viewer's question related to cars and motoring gets answered on Auto Extreme. You can get a hard copy every Thursday in the Motoring section of the Philippine Daily Inquirer.

WHICH is better, fuel injection or a traditional carburetor?
—*Bong Guevarra of Subic*

For well over a decade now, fuel injection has reigned supreme—and for good reason. It allows much easier starting, provides crisper throttle response, improves fuel economy and easily controls the fuel mixture to optimize performance.

But the main reason fuel injection dethroned carburetion even among mainstream automobiles is that it produces much lower emissions.

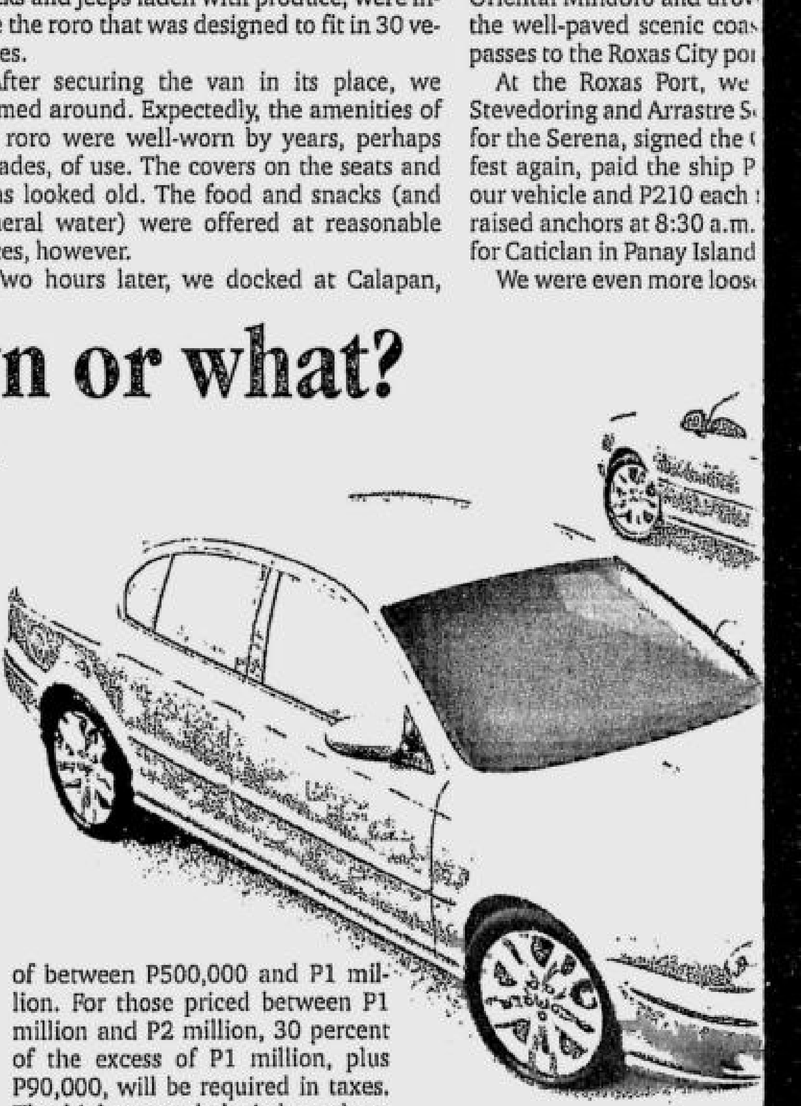
With increasingly stricter emission standards and the advent of cold start emission tests, the days of the carburetor are coming to an end. Without electronic engine controls, it's simply far too difficult to accurately command all the parameters needed to remain compliant.

However, there are the carburetor die-hards—particularly those who love to tinker with classic cars—who feel that computers are for the office, not for racing. They believe that carburetors are what give a car its personality and keeps you more connected to the car because it gives you more hands-on involvement.

But the big difference is that with electronic fuel injection, you have a computer to tune the engine. With carburetion, you have you. If you know how to tune you'll have the advantage. But with carburetors, guessing rarely works. You have to know how to actually tune an engine and it takes a great deal of experience to get the hang of it.

Going up, going down or what?

The future of luxury car prices under the new excise tax law



SHE'S been looking around for a new European car. Yet Mrs. M, an affluent businesswoman living in Greenhills, San Juan, still couldn't decide. For her, it's not a matter of what car to buy—it's more a matter of whether she should buy now or wait.

You see, Mrs. M has been hearing rumors that prices of upscale cars are about to take a dive due to the new excise tax system the government will soon implement. She's not really sure if the rumors are true. Of course, as prudent as she is, she wants to get the best deal for everything she pours her money into.

"Would this car be cheaper after the new tax law is imposed?" she asked a sales rep at the new Jaguar showroom on ADB Avenue in Ortigas Center, Pasig. She pointed to a Jaguar X-type sedan. "I've been looking at this car for a month now but I couldn't make up my mind. It would be such a waste if I buy now and the price goes down next month," she said.

Mrs. M is not alone in her predicament. Amado del Rosario, Jaguar Cars Inc. managing director, said many luxury car buyers are opting to wait and see what the new tax law would bring. "The uncertainty is actually slowing the market down," he pointed out. "The luxury car segment is barely moving. All makes—Jaguar, BMW, Volvo, Mercedes-Benz, Audi—are down since January."

For Jaguar, however, Del Rosario has done some calculations and found out that the price of the P2.1-million X-type and other similar cars with 2-liter engines is likely to remain the same even under the new law.

"The medium-sized luxury car, being in the middle of the spectrum, is likely to keep its present price tag. It's in the low end and the high end that we will see dramatic changes," he said.

The new tax scheme is expected to benefit small passenger cars and those with big engines, such as the Jaguar XK, an ultra-luxury car whose base model Jaguar Cars Inc. is selling at P10 million plus. The Jaguar XK runs on a 4.2-liter supercharged engine.

Del Rosario explained that the new tax law, being value-based, has brackets. Two versions of the law are being debated now, but the most likely version that experts expect to pass charges 3 percent for vehicles priced up to P500,000, and 15 percent of the excess of P500,000, plus P50,000, for cars with sticker prices of between P500,000 and P1 million. For those priced between P1 million and P2 million, 30 percent of the excess of P1 million, plus P90,000, will be required in taxes. The highest tax is levied on those cars priced P2 million and above. These cars will be charged 50 percent of the amount that exceeds P2 million plus P390,000.

"The good thing here is the excise tax will only be levied on the excess amount, not on the entire value of the car, regardless of engine displacement. That's what makes it favorable to luxury cars with big engines. In the past it used to be 100 percent of the car," he noted.

Del Rosario added that Jaguar buyers need not worry about their cars' prices going down in the coming months because of the new

For one, he said, it still takes

and a half months to order a

from the Jaguar factory in Cove

England, where every

cle—from the hip X-type, the

gant S-type and the pow

XK—is still being meticulo

crafted based on the specifica

required by its future owner.

"If the price goes down in

coming months because of l

taxes, we'll lower the price ac

ingly," assured Del Rosario.

never take advantage of our

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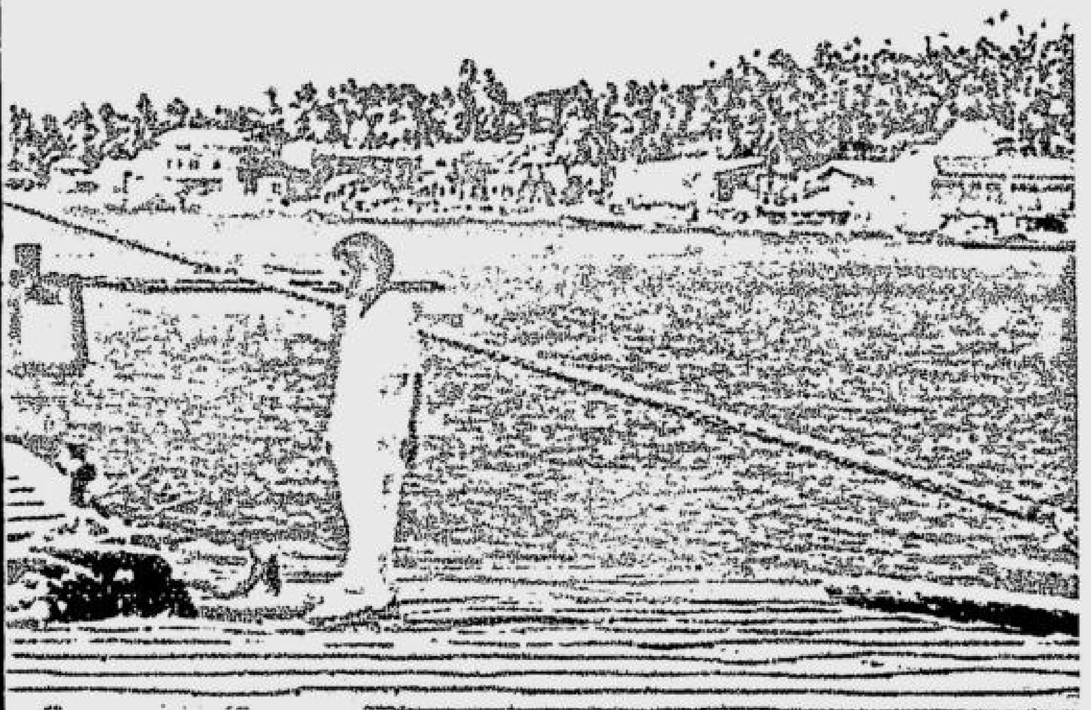

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there were only around four vans and two buses inside the roro. We didn't leave the van for the first two hours or so.

While others slept, we sneaked in a VCD movie on the Serena's on-board player.

After that, we took in the breathtaking view of the open Philippine sea as our boat, named "Maharlika III," churned out whitewater in its wake.

Before we knew it, our boat's foghorns were blaring, signaling our approach to Caticlan. A few minutes later, we were right in front of the new Caticlan Port offices, where we secured our pumpboat tickets to Boracay island.

ROCKIN', ROLLIN' TRIP **From the Port of Batangas to the belly of a ship, the Serena is now docking at Caticlan Port for a four-day rest at a secure parking lot a few meters away from this spot. The ride on the outrigger from here takes around 20 minutes to Boracay—the heart of the action.**

Parking slot

We had to find a secure parking space for the Serena, however. And it didn't take us long. Just a few meters inland, we found it. At just P50 a day, we could leave our Serena under a shaded area in the company of other vans the passengers of which, we assumed, were already having a heck of a time in Boracay.

From Caticlan, the ride on the outrigger took only around 20 minutes to Station 3, right at the heart of the action (at least, the marketplace action) in Boracay.

The unconventional trip over, we proceeded, for the next four nights and three days, to enjoy Boracay conventionally: swim, snorkel, eat and party.

Fare, other fees

Cost assessment: This party of six spent around P3,500, one-way, for the fare and all other fees. In terms of fuel consumption, the Serena required P2,300 worth of gasoline for around 600 km of land transfers (two-way). Thus, all in all, transportation cost us P9,300.

Divided equally among the six, each person would have shelled out P1,550, round trip, for this adventure. Not bad, considering a plane ride to Caticlan, though around 12 hours shorter, would cost three times as much, or a cabin ride on the Superferry, though more luxurious and convenient, would cost twice as much.

'Blame DPWH and Ayala, not us'

ON THE ROAD

Aida Sevilla Mendoza

REACTING to this column of May 15 regarding the deplorable condition of Makati's streets, Makati City Information and Community Relations Department officer-in-charge Joselito SJ. Salgado wrote:

"We were rather amused while reading your column today entitled 'The mean streets of Makati.' We certainly cannot deny that the streets you mentioned are indeed located in Makati. But Makati Avenue, Gil Puyat Avenue (formerly Buendia) and J.P. Rizal Avenue are all national roads, and therefore their maintenance are (sic) the responsibility of the Department of Public Works and Highways.

"The other street you mentioned, Ayala Avenue, is part of the Ayala Land Inc. private road network, and therefore is their responsibility accordingly. We are surprised how this fact escaped your attention.

Prohibited

"Therefore, as much as we would ourselves want to see the entire road network of Makati as smooth and well-paved as possible, we are prohibited from refurbishing the streets in question owing to the fact that they do not fall within our jurisdiction.

"You might want to note that the other streets of the city, which are local roads and outside the enclave of the Ayala Land Inc., are all cemented and well maintained.

"As far as those who read your column are concerned, they have already been given the impression that the Makati City Government is the one to blame. Be that as it may, we would still appreciate your giving the contents of this letter adequate space in your forthcoming columns to correct that misimpression which you have created, however honestly it may have been done."

Don't blame us

In other words, the Makati City government, through Mr. Salgado, is saying: "Blame the DPWH and Ayala Land, not us" for the rough, bumpy surfaces of Makati Avenue, Buendia, J.P. Rizal and Ayala Avenue—not to mention South Superhighway and Edsa, long stretches of which pass through Makati, as I had pointed out in my column.

But since Mr. Salgado did not include Arnaiz Avenue (formerly Pasay Road), portions of which are also in terrible condition, we can only conclude that it is a local road under Makati's jurisdiction and responsibility.

Mr. Salgado claims that outside the enclave of Ayala Land, the local roads are all cemented and well-maintained. What about Kamagong, Chino Roces Avenue (formerly Pasong Tamo) and Vito Cruz? They may be cemented, but there are bone-jarring stretches, especially on Kamagong and Pasong Tamo.

Still part of Makati

In any case, I did conclude the May 15 column with the observation that Makati's position as the country's primary financial and business center obliges the DPWH to maintain in good condition Edsa and the South Superhighway, the national roads passing through Makati territory.

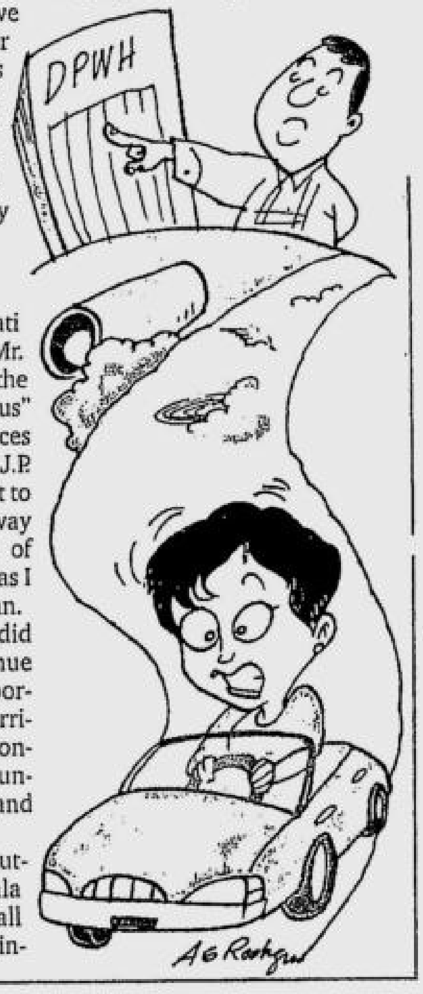
And while it may be true that the national roads and Ayala Land's private roads are not Makati City's responsibility, they are still part of Makati. It seems unlikely that the DPWH and Ayala Land would prohibit the Makati City government from refurbishing their roads. Perhaps if the city government offered to improve their roads, Ayala Land and DPWH would be inspired to do the job themselves.

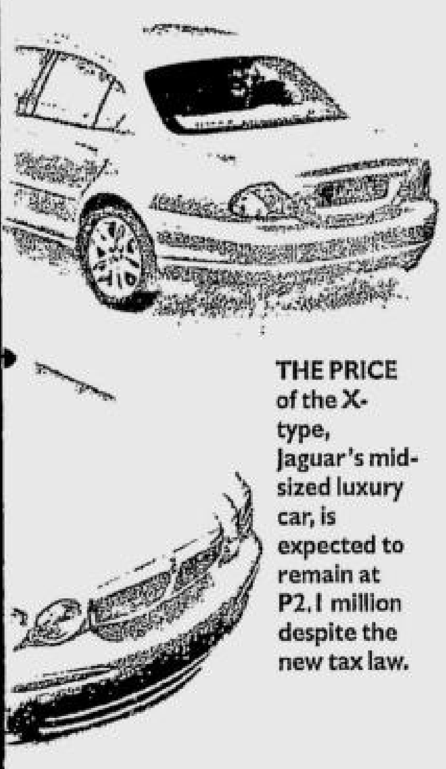
* * *

TODAY'S BUMPER STICKER: For every action, there is an equal and opposite criticism.

* * *

E-mail comments to asevilla@inquirer.com.ph





THE PRICE of the X-type, Jaguar's mid-sized luxury car, is expected to remain at P2.1 million despite the new tax law.

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tomers. We always tell them the real score. We never tell them that the price will go up next month so they should rush and buy now. That's why they can be assured that they are not only getting quality vehicles from us, but they are also getting the full worth of their money."

For more information, visit the Jaguar Makati showoom at the ground floor of Enzo Building, 399 Sen. Gil J. Puyat Avenue (formerly Buendia) and the Jaguar Ortigas showroom is located at 88 ADB Avenue in Ortigas Center, Pasig City.

Original problem was traffic

FULL TANK

Al Mendoza

FROM TRAFFIC to trees.

Or, is it from trees to traffic?

All this talk about trees obstructing traffic and killing trees in the name of traffic is bull. I have yet to think of so stupid a topic to debate upon than the above. When do we grow up? When do we start to discern between barking up the wrong tree and becoming the solution to instead of being part of the problem?

* * *

The original problem was traffic. It's been that since Edsa reduced Escolta as mere historical footnote insofar as hub of life—both high and low—is concerned. It's been that since the Sixties' Beatlemania gave way, albeit temporarily, to the Eighties' Basuramania. Basuramania being *basura* (garbage) of any kind hurled anywhere for all the world to care.

Trash thrown into brooks, rivers and lakes.

Trash thrown into alleys, streets and highways.

Trash thrown into the floor of Congress, hallway of Malacañang, consciousness of a public long enslaved by a political system not truly responsive to the needs of the governed.

* * *

But to go back to where I started.

Traffic or trees? Trees or traffic?

Of course, traffic. We've been bugged long enough by traffic that it's about time we bug this malady out of our lives. A bug named Bayani Fernando has been bugging us for quite sometime now about the need to address the bugger of a bug that is traffic. In so doing, Bayani has become, invariably, the butt of jokes and the bug who refuses to budge.

* * *

Bayani, or BF to many, has become the butt of jokes because of his jokes about how to go about licking traffic in the Big City. Some of them have floored me, others had me doubling up in laughter.

For example, his decision to remove many left-turns and virtually all traffic lights that cross on Edsa. That was a big joke because it did not reconcile with other bottlenecks plaguing Edsa like the giant bus stations stationed along Edsa. It was a band-aid solution to a gaping wound and, thus, ineffective—both from the very start and in the long run.

That floored me.

* * *

Next, the trees.

BF wanted them either cut down or balled and replanted to "where they belong, which is the parks." He said trees, particularly those at Ateneo/Katipunan Avenue in Quezon City, block traffic.

I heard BF say that before—trees blocking traffic. In fact, he's done already what he's been threatening us with again. Last year, he cut a tree at Edsa near Nepa Q, and next boasted his crime would pay. Meaning, traffic would improve at Edsa. If it did, I'd be either a nut or blind. I have yet to see Edsa, particularly that stretch where that tree used to "look at God all day." That tree was felled because it blocked human traffic?

My eye.

* * *

The tree being a traffic blocker is yet the most sickening joke from BF. It smacks of the most twisted logic yet since Imelda Marcos gave birth to the MMDA.

Now if a tree is right there in the middle of a street—Edsa or not Edsa—then, sure, it blocks traffic. How can a tree that towers from an island that separates a two-way street block traffic?

If you say yes, either you are cross-eyed or punch-drunk. No offense meant to either Jack Egan or Miniong Alvarez (bless their souls).

* * *

I repeat, it's not the trees, BF, it's some other sores that are not God-made (only God can make a tree, remember?) but rather, man-made, that cause traffic jams on Edsa.

Edsa has lots of bottlenecks but never the trees. As I said, the most effective traffic blockers there are the bus stations from the corner of Kamuning up to Aurora Boulevard, and then those again stationed near Baclaran.

Also, include the bus stops. Golly, these numerous stops are mostly corruption stops for your own men than stops for buses. If your own men would only enforce the law to the hilt, maybe you'd spare the trees from your wrath.

* * *

As a parting shot, trees, including those both at Katipunan Avenue and Sierra Madre, also have feelings like you. Do you know that if you paint the trunk of a tree white, the tree would feel poisoned and it would shed tears in the form of sap? And that's only with white, the color of peace. What more if you paint it red (war color), much less cut or uproot it and relocate it to somewhere else? If squatters hate relocation that much, what more with trees that are as defenseless as those in "Schindler's List" in Nazi camps?

Anyway, it's not the trees that cause traffic at Katipunan, BF. It's still man and machine. Now, if your men would only go about their job of instilling order on man and machine and not follow your murderous order to cut or uproot those trees there, that part of the Big City would be as traffic-free as the Mojave desert.

OK, to get back to another question: Does BF mean Bayani Fernando?

Not to me. To me, BF, for as long as the guy insists on going against God's will on trees, means Big Farce. At least that sounds better than Big Fa--.

* * *

QUOTE ME. The rains should be treated as boon rather than bane. Taken positively, the rains command us to slow down always, making for a safe and joyful riding, whether going long distance or not.

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THE NEW Honda Accord

Sporty 7th generation Accord enters RP

By Tessa R. Salazar

AFTER JUST recently introducing the new Honda City, Honda Cars Philippines takes in another sedan from Thailand: the 7th generation Honda Accord.

Propped as the "sporty premium sedan," the new Accord is styled with muscular exterior designs combined with a futuristic interior. The new Accord wears an "aggressive" face, vital sleek body and agile muscular stance.

Suggestive of the Honda S2000, its new multireflector headlight is designed for a wider spread of light. Its designers set it with a front grille to match the Accord's forceful expression. It is combined with multireflector headlights and foglamps.

Trimmed with chrome combined with multireflector taillights, the new Accord's side mirrors' shape has been improved to reduce the vortex created by air moving from the windshield to the side windows. This is said to give a better visibility for the driver, particularly during rough weather conditions.

Passenger comforts

Visual treats inside include a 2-tone dashboard, 4-spoke leather-wrapped steering wheel, with telescopic adjustable steering wheel tilt. There is a separate temperature control for the driver and the passenger. Switches for the 6-disc in dash CD changer can be accessed without having to reach under the seats or open the trunk.

The full leather interior upholstery comes with a choice of gray or ivory leathers depending on the body color. For the VTI-L model, the driver's seat is fitted with an 8-way power adjust feature and lumbar support while the front passenger has a 4-way power adjustment seat. The lumbar support eases the stress on the driver's back, especially during long distance driving. It has front and rear armrests. These new comfort features promise long hours of stress-free driving and passenger comfort.

Given the onset of the rainy season in the Philippines and the prospect of more monstrous traffic jams, that promise will be put to the test, indeed.

The Accord is generous with storage—cupholders, a coin pocket, glove box, sunglass storage, side-door pockets, double-deck storage box and set-back pockets.

Power features

The new Accord is equipped with the DOHC I-VTEC, 2.0-liter engine and the 5-speed automatic transmission with grade logic control. The VTEC, which varies valve phasing and timing to power at all rpm ranges and still maintains fuel economy, is combined with variable valve timing control for great amounts of torque and power.

Both City and Accord will be imported from Thailand as part of the "made by Global Honda" strategy.

An endangered. . .

From page C1

resenting the commuting public.

Clarification

To allay fears of various organizations, LTO Chief Roberto Lastimoso issued a clarification that the LTO will continue registering two-strokes tricycles already bought, but stressed the government is discouraging individuals from buying two-stroke motorcycles in view of a government plan to ban importation of such motorcycles.

In fact, the Department of Interior and Local Government memorandum-circular still directs all provincial governors, city mayors, municipal mayors, DILG regional directors and others concerned to continue granting licenses to new tricycles and the renewal of old licenses.

In a letter sent to Mendoza last week, Lim said any statements regarding the phaseout will only generate uncertainties among his group.

Lim asked Mendoza to honor an earlier agreement reached by the DOTC, Department of Environment and Natural Resources and all other concerned agencies involved in the implementation of the Clean Air Act that no phaseout of the two-stroke tricycles was to be effected, as long as the owners and drivers of the two-stroke tricycles passed the emission tests.

"This has been what we have agreed upon as we are willing to use numerous small and cost-effective improvements to our vehicles," Lim said.

Many alternatives

Despite the recommendation of the World Bank study to curb the use of two-stroke engines, it suggested using the correct type and concentration of lubricant and carrying out regular maintenance would significantly reduce emissions from two-stroke engines while saving drivers' money.

"This is a more realistic solution and these measures can be achieved through mass education of drivers, tricycle owners and even the public," suggested Norberto Quisumbing Jr., chair of Norkis Group and considered the country's innovator of the tricycle, which he helped popularize in the 1960s.

"What we should address here is the pollution issue not whether it's a two-stroke or a four-stroke," he added.

Quisumbing reported that today's two-stoke motorcycles employ direct-fuel injection and catalytic converters that are as clean or even cleaner and cheaper than four-strokes. "Japan, where most of these two-strokes are developed and manufactured, is one of the world's strictest when it comes to emissions standards."

He also reported that there are now government studies looking into the use of coconut-based lubricants and fuels (including compressed natural gas).

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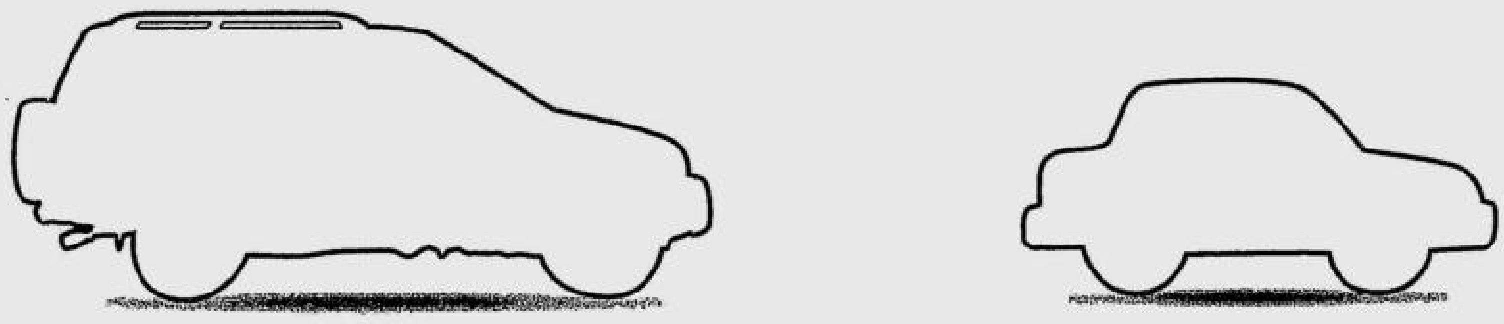

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EARTH-FRIENDLY packaging for My Dinuguan and Only and Vivo Tocino

All wrapped up and ready to please

Binalot gets the green stamp of approval by serving meals in banana leaves instead of styro plates

Text by Jasmine W. Payo
Photos by Roger Carpio

LONG before Tupperware made its way to our kitchen cupboards, Pinoys have been wrapping their food with banana leaves. It's practical, and the leaves add a scrumptious aroma to one's meal.

Such similar experience of entrepreneur Rommel Juan spurred a business idea. Though involved in their family business, he wanted to start his own venture with his brother Rafael.

"One idea that stuck to us was this concept of food being wrapped in banana leaves, like how we used to do it whenever we went to the province. We used to go to our resthouse in Cavite and our mom would wrap our food in banana leaves. So we thought of bringing that concept in Metro Manila," relates Juan, managing director of Binalot.

Funny names

Currently located in four mall food courts and one MRT station, Binalot offers Filipino favorites packed in banana leaves and craft paper.

Affordably priced between P25-P65, there are currently 13 meals to choose from: *tocino, adobo, longganisa, bistek, tapa, daing na bangus, inihaw na baboy, bopis, dinuguan*, tenderloin, corned beef, *sisig* and *adobo* rice with egg. As an added treat, most meals come with *kamatis* and *itlog na pula* combo, and salt underneath the leaves.

Although Binalot is considered a fast-food outlet, Juan claims they never compromise the quality of the dishes they serve. "We get our ingredients from the best places. We tried to get from the best sources because we're stringent with the quality," he says.

He notes the *tocino* and *longganisa* come from Pampanga, the beef comes from Batangas, the bangus from Dagupan or Bacolod, and even the banana leaves come all the way from Quezon.

Another interesting plus point for Binalot is the humor injected in their menu and packaging. Juan admits it was he who came up with the funny names for their meals such as My Dinuguan and Only, Love Me Tenderloin Tips, Bistek Walastik and Bopisticated.

"My friends said that it's obvious that I was the one who wrote everything. They knew it was the way I would speak to them. I'm really a marketing guy," shares the 31-year-old Juan.

He also thought of creating Mang Bina, the restaurant's mascot, and placing an amusing step-by-step instruction on the craft paper packaging (1. *Buksan ang balot*, 2. *Langhapin ang malinamnam na amoy*,

ALL WRAPPED/ D4

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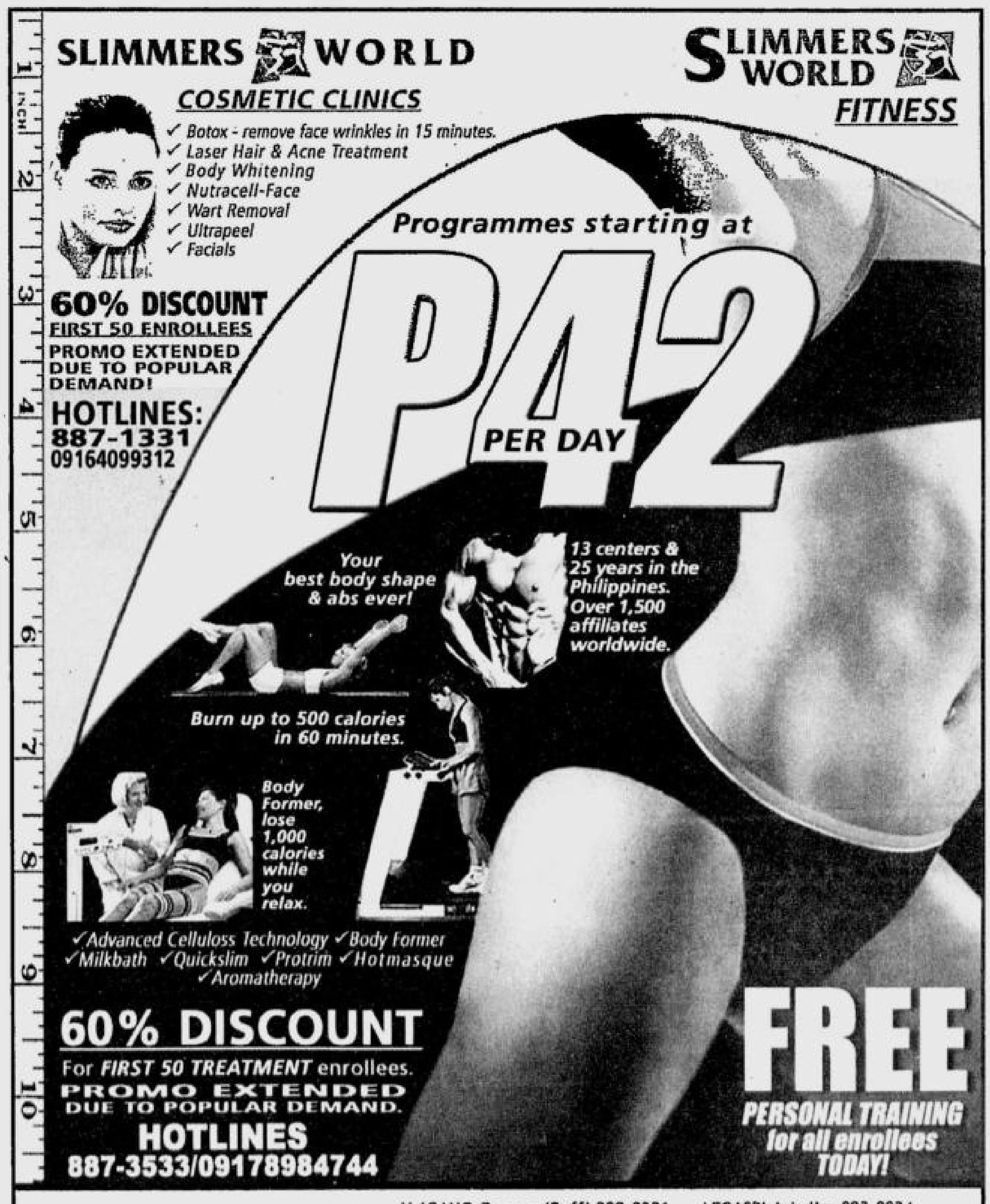

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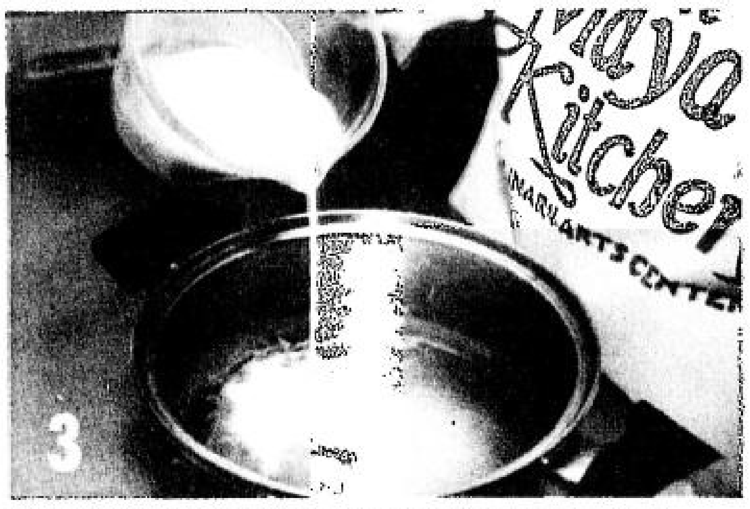
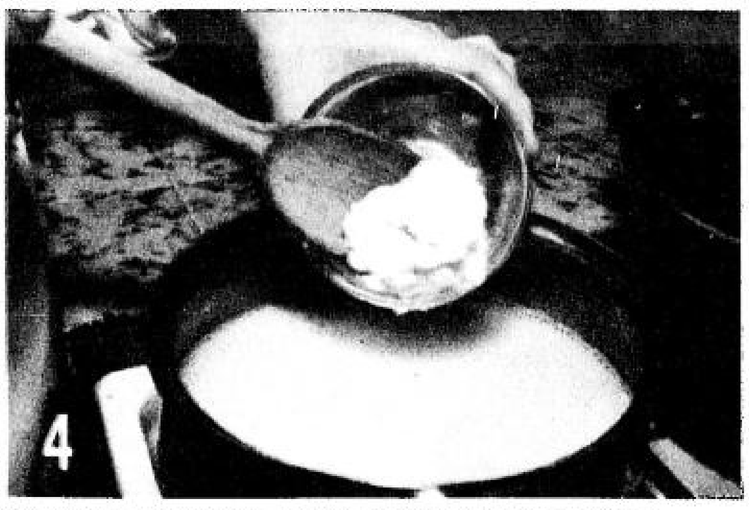


3

IN ANOTHER saucepan, combine 1 ½ cup water, milk and one package clear *gulaman*. Heat over low fire until *gulaman* dissolves and mixture is smooth.



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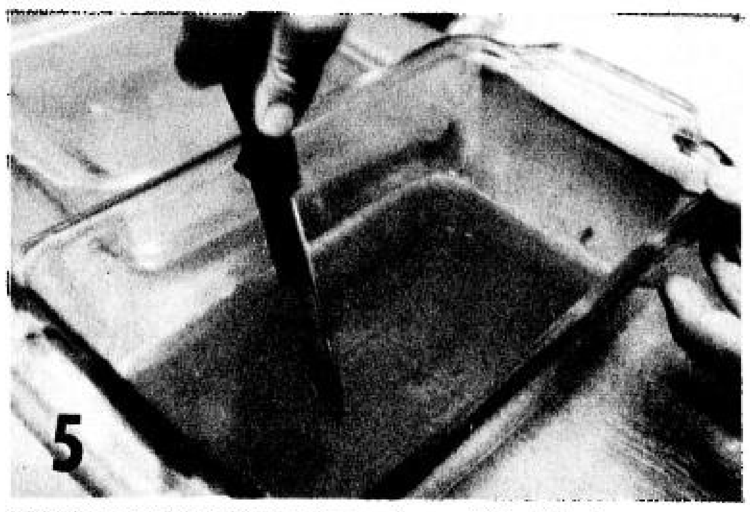
STIR in sugar and cream. Let boil. Remove from heat and cool slightly. Set aside.



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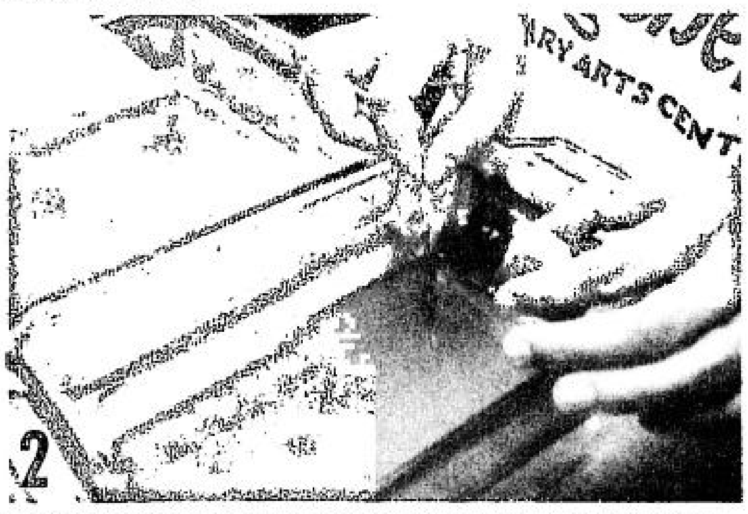
CUT the set *gulaman* (red, yellow and green) into ½" cubes.

Sweet prisms of color and cream



2

TINT half portion with red food color, and the other half with yellow. Set aside. Cook green *gulaman* as per package direction. Pour in a mold and set aside.

1

MIX one pack of clear *gulaman* with 1 3/4 c water. Stir. Bring to a boil, stirring constantly until completely dissolved. Divide *gulaman* mixture into 2 portions

Text by Vangie Baga Reyes
Photos by Johnny Villena

GELATIN is absolutely the easiest dessert to make. It is inexpensive, uncomplicated, economical and fun for a family meal or get together. To get this dessert to set without becoming too soggy, use just the right amount of gelatin.

Cathedral Window is a simple gelatin dessert that bursts with colors and a delicate and creamy taste that is exceptionally rich and filling. It is commonly sold in bakeshops.

The Maya Kitchen Culinary Arts Center (tel. 892-5011 local 108) demonstrates how to prepare this multicolored dessert. Chefs in trendy restaurants often prepare their gelatin with orange flavoring. You can make your own delicious version by adding chocolate or caramel. You can even turn the dessert into a tropical treat by adding fresh fruits like like mangoes or strawberries. It's your choice.

Imee Borres, Maya Food demonstrator and kitchen researcher, uses red and yellow food coloring in the gelatin for a festive look. She suggests keeping gelatin dessert refrigerated until served. Holding it on the serving line for long periods of time may cause it to melt.

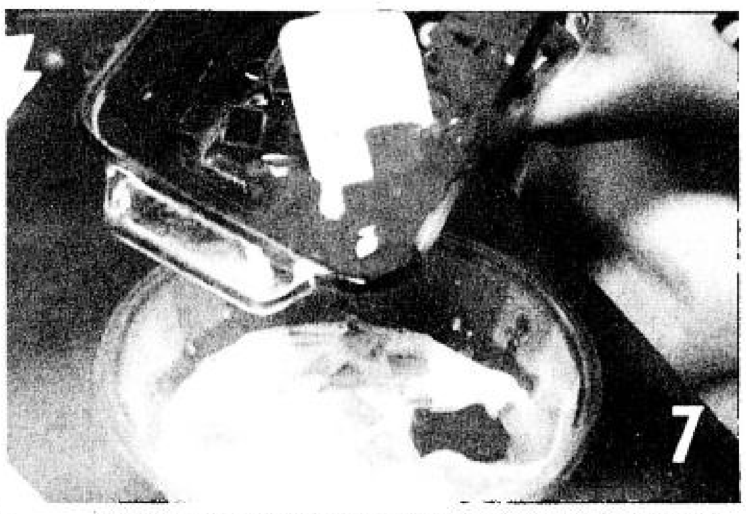
Gelatin desserts that are prepared in decorative molds can be unmolded easily by dipping the container in lukewarm water for a few seconds to loosen the gelatin from the bottom and sides. Individual portions can be cut with a sharp knife and a spatula used to lift out the portions for service.

Cathedral Window may be garnished with whipped toppings or sliced fruits on the side.

> Cathedral Window is a gelatin dessert that's affordable and easy to make

6

IN A MOLD, pour half of the white *gulaman* mixture.



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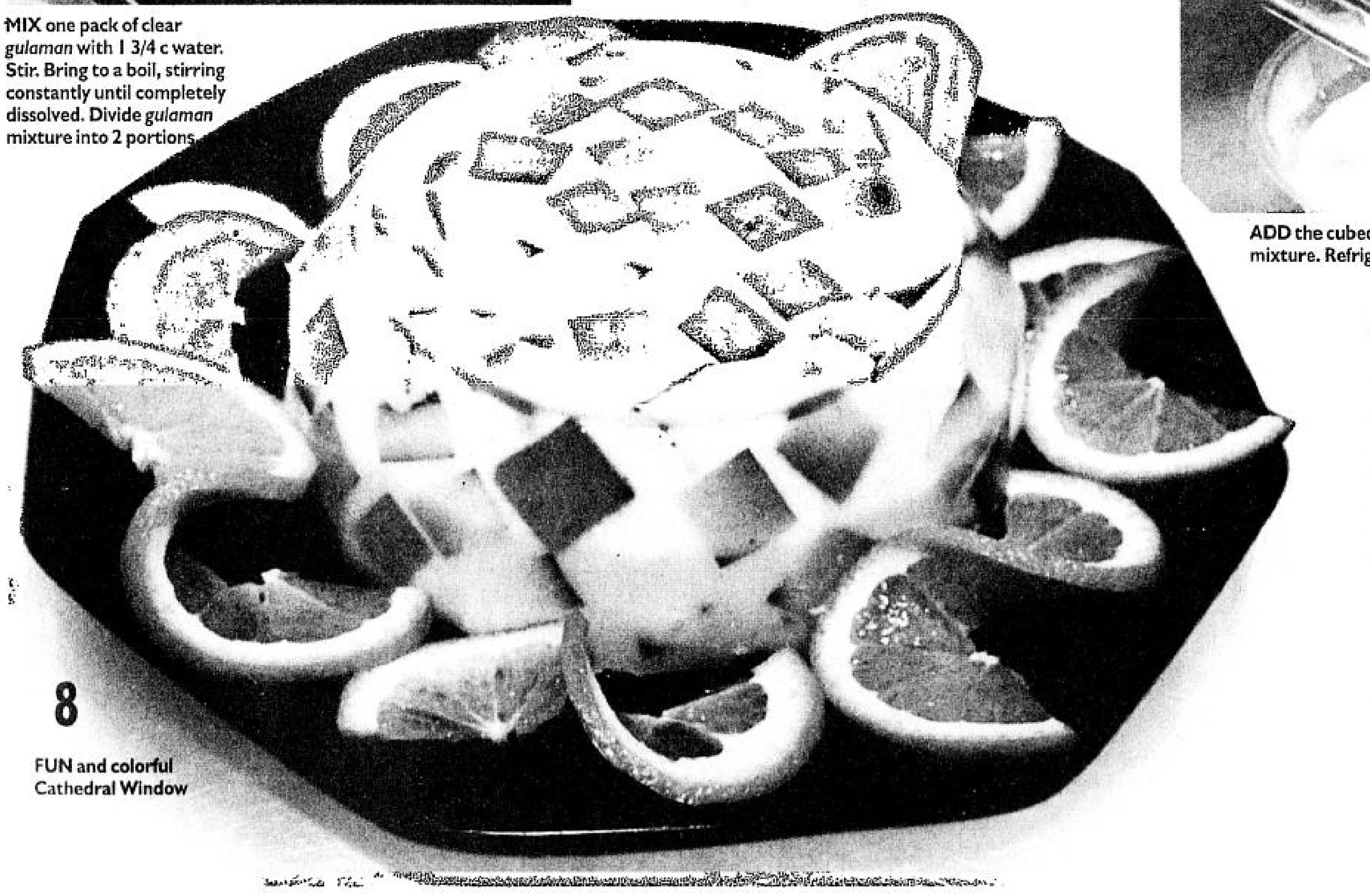
ADD the cubed *gulaman*. Pour in remaining white *gulaman* mixture. Refrigerate until firm.



8

FUN and colorful Cathedral Window

Ingredients:

2 package Maya Quick & Easy Gulaman (clear)
1 package Maya Quick & Easy Gulaman (green)
red and yellow food color
1¾ c water
2 c milk
½ c sugar
1 c all-purpose cream

For suggestions, e-mail vbaga@inquirer.com.ph

Setting the organic fashion

THE JOYFUL COOK

Felice Prudente Sta. Maria

THE JOYFUL Cook was pulling out two layers of a double rich devil's food cake from the oven. Her cousin Sonia was getting married. A professional for 18 years now after having finished a post-masteral degree, and past the common wedding age, Sonia was a prime catch for any bachelor brave enough to court her. At least that's how the family viewed it. The bride-to-be was expected to spend the weekend in her hometown so that the cousins could host a kitchen shower for her.

In a naughty mood, TJC decided that peppery Red Devil sauce would provide the proper mood for an obviously adult engagement. There was no need to play on the shy young thing in white at this shower, she figured. So the table was set with a pair of little bears that had magnets on their mouths as take-home favors for each guest. Dressed like the cutest little devils, the kissing bears had been Starbucks' Valentine's Day promos. Cookie cutters served as napkin rings for bright red napkins teamed with white plates and a white tablecloth. Low *siling labuyo* plants in small white ceramic pots and bunches of all sorts of hot peppers interspersed with cooking utensils were used as centerpieces for the buffet and table for 12. The girls were sure to have fun, she thought.

A home-cooked sendoff

TJC's cousin Nene Chidang, who came in from Manila, stopped by to see how things were going. "Tita Caring plans to have her cook prepare the *despedida de soltera*. She's going crazy trying to find something different from what she made for Inday's sendoff last year," she noted.

"I'd just follow the dinner buffet in Myrna Segismundo's 'The Party Cookbook,'" said TJC. "It's published by Anvil and has all the things we associate with family special occasion fare—like *lumpia*, *empanada*, pork—but with a twist: pork-beef *empanadas* made from a family recipe; fish *lumpia* rolls; bean curd with peanut sauce; mesclun salad; fillet of *lapu-lapu* with fresh pineapple-chili relish; roast porkloin with cashew *humba* sauce; soyless chicken drumsticks *adobo* in *basi* vinegar and *achuete* olive oil; noodles with assorted meats and vegetables; *pandan* rice; glazed mango crepes; coffee jelly with cream; fresh fruits of the season.

"The recipes work. I've tried them myself. If Tita Caring wants to really do something contemporary she can buy as many organic ingredients as she can. There are so many on the market now," noted TJC.

The sensual table

"Sonia still doesn't have a caterer for the wedding reception that will be held at Tita Caring's home. Again, she wants something different," Nene Chidang noted.

"I have friends at the Swiss-Pinoy Kitchen with different approaches to menus. What makes them different from other caterers, and we have lots of really superb ones to choose from, is that Swiss-Pinoy promotes organic ingredients. In this new health paradigm, organic is the route to go," TJC said with conviction.

"Look at what Chef Anne has for her 'A Celebration of Senses' menu: velouté of celery and oyster; seared tuna with arugula and pomelo; spinach lasagna; champagne sherbet; grilled squid marinated in pesto; roasted pork savored with sage and served with capsicum-punctuated mashed potato; fig creme brulée; strawberry crepes; and a wedding cake flavored with amaretto.

"She says the almond in amaretto is said to have been born of a goddess' womb. There's so much fiction in the foods of love. But it's fun to include them and their lore in any romantic menu. Anne told me that paella made with squid ink was considered so exotic and erotic that it was not to be fed to nuns and widows. Oysters and figs always figure in aphrodisiac lists. Their rich textures and succulent flesh are supposed to stimulate the imagination."

"I think it's their shapes. They resemble parts of the body associated with procreation and lust," said Nene Chidang with a laugh.

More organic alternatives

"A high tea is a very affordable alternative to a sit-down dinner. Many wedding receptions in the US and UK are lovely afternoon teas. Filipina Anne and her Swiss partner, cheesemaker Jacqueline, have teamed up their skills in a truly well-designed menu: scones; old-fashioned petit mango pies; *chou à la crème*; petit lemon rhum cake; mousse à la orange; baskets of strawberries served with *crème fraiche*; cucumber-boursin tea sandwiches; ham-mango tea sandwiches; *chou au polet campanard*; Swiss ramequin; cashew crusted fish in cream and mushroom sauce on linguini. They recommend *lapsang souchong*, *assan* and Earl Grey teas; *lagundi* tisane; banaba-*dalandan* and lemongrass-calamansi iced teas; and for wines, the fruity 2000 Scholoss Wallhausen Riesling QBA and 2000 Heyl Riesling Troken QBA," said TJC.

"How do you find Anne and Jacqueline, so I can tell Sonia?"

"At the 11th floor of LKG Tower on Ayala Avenue in Makati. Just look for Petra's Naturally. It's an organic café and deli that's affordably priced. Or call them at 870-9474. It's not often that one finds both chefs and organic ingredients together."

"Well, see you later at the shower," said Nene Chidang with the usual *beso-beso*.

Next: Cooking up the weather

Car owners say EWDs are anti-consumer, anti-poor

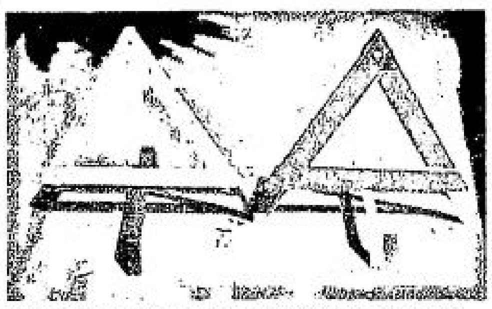
THE CONSUMER

Marietta Velasco Giron

ONCE and for all, the Land Transportation Office (LTO) should clarify if its newly issued regulation means it is the only authorized source of early warning device (EWD). Car owners are confused, and unscrupulous persons are making a killing from the sale of supposedly LTO-approved EWDs.

Car owners are angry, and they let it be known through the media. Dr. Rene Lacanilao of Medical City, in his May 20 letter, attached pictures showing that the new EWD he bought from the LTO was no different from the old ones.

Dr. Lacanilao said: "Even if you have an old EWD that came with... your vehicle, LTO will not register your vehicle if you do not buy a new set of EWD (P490 per set of yellow and red) from them. Car shops sell similar EWDs for only P162 a set, current market price.



EARLY warning devices (EWD) required by LTO for car registration

"The new LTO regulation is anti-consumer and anti-poor. Why doesn't LTO simply attach a new sticker to the old EWD? Why buy something you already have?"

Rico Santos (seekingjustice@email.com) disputed the LTO announcement that was supposedly aired on television saying car owners can buy EWDs from sources other than LTO.

He claimed, "That is completely false. I went to LTO Manila-south district office to renew the registration of my vehicle. They told me that I must, first, buy an EWD from them. When I told them that I already had one, they said the EWD must be bought from them, otherwise they would not renew my registration.

"What does that make of LTO, a car-accessory dealer? How come nobody can stop this extortion racket?"

Bank response

We thought we'd closed the pages last week on banking woes, not expecting more complaints from disgruntled customers. However, we got more gripes from our mailbox.

But first here is a letter from Ajay Kanwal, chief of consumer banking division of Standard Chartered Bank Philippines. We appreciate his prompt reply to the complaint of reader L. Gonzaga, who resented having to wait 40 minutes just to talk to a customer service representative. "I waited in vain. I called to activate my card," she complained.

Kanwal wrote: "Customer calls are channeled to the Helpline, and service representatives are added as the need arises, in our effort to maximize the communications system to meet our growing customer base. Last month alone, the Helpline answered 200,000 inquiries (12,000 on peak days) on subjects such as account balance, statement inquiries, application status, VAT clarification, etc. These days, lines are even busier with pre-school opening queries on tuition fees, in addition to matters about supplementary cards, Smart Tie-Up, EZ Bills, payment and balance, etc."

Customers are advised by Kanwal to call these numbers for specific concerns: 830-1211 for status of credit card and personal loan applications; 830-1433 for cardholders' balance transfers and supplementary card matters; 830-1200 for settlement of late payments, charges, interest.

Cardholders can also use the e-mail (iASK.SCB@ph.standardchartered.com); cell phone number 0917-7911111 or 0918-9221111. Cardholders are given wallet-size code cards bearing the text codes for particular inquiries. For more inquiries, call Edith Fadul, who heads the process and product management and service quality department, at 878-2060.

More banking woes

Tess Laurel related her experience to warn company employees about the "unsecured loan" supposedly offered by a commercial bank.

Laurel wrote that a bank representative called up her office to offer an "unsecured loan." After she submitted all the requirements and underwent credit investigation for several weeks, she found out her application was rejected. She was told the company she worked for did not qualify because it did not belong to the "top 10,000 corporations in the country."

"I felt gypped," Laurel wrote. "Why didn't the bank representative screen the companies before [inviting] employees to apply for the loan? All the time and effort I wasted! It's not fair to presume that employees of small companies cannot pay their loan. Could it be a ploy to get private personal information for some scam?"

Exorbitant bank charges

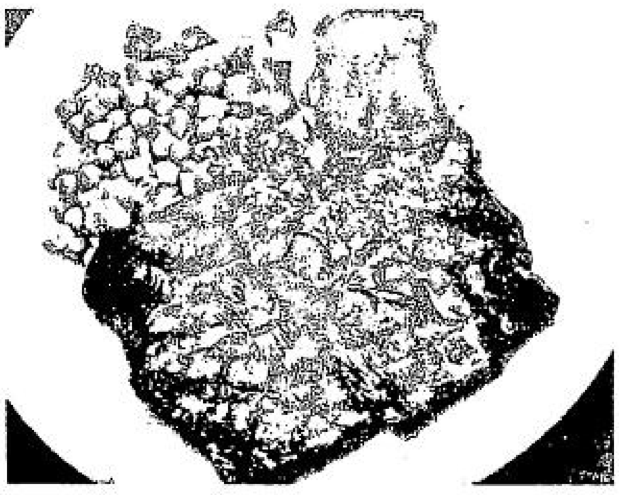
Learn all about bank charges before making any transaction like encashing checks and paying through the bank. Here are two complaints to remember.

Arlene B. of Ermita, Manila, decried the excessive service charges banks impose these days on transactions to and from branches in the province. "The bank deducted P200 in service charges from my cash. In my line of business, I need to transact money transfers several times in a month. P200 per transaction is such a big loss."

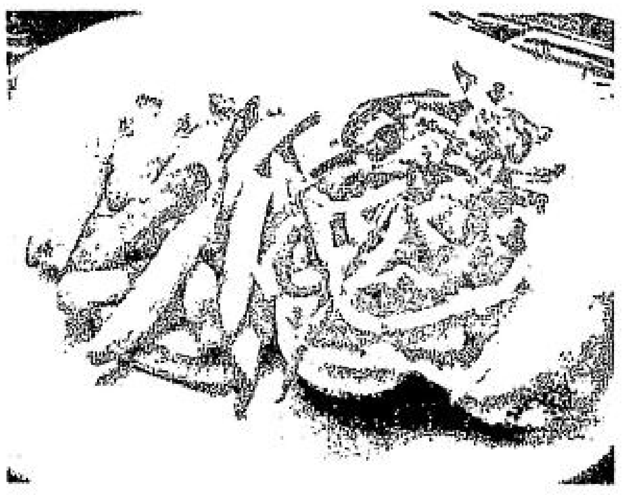
Here's another complaint from J. Andres of West Capitol Drive: "The company I work for issued an Equitable-PCI check in the amount of P3,500. I went to Equitable-PCI to encash it but I was informed about the new P150 service charge. Hello! That was too much for me. I was told that if I deposited the check, I would be charged P100 service fee. I went to UCPB where I deposited the check at no exorbitant charge."

Send consumer complaints and comments to giron@mailstation.net

DOES it matter where you buy EWDs?



HUNGRY Man Steak



PHILLY Cheese Steak

Steaks on a workman's budget

CAN diners on a workman's budget afford steaks? "That's the concept behind Steak Factory," explains Cristina Rivera, the eldest daughter of Melo's patriarch and founder, Melo Santiago.

Steak Factory, which proudly bears the "By Melo's Food Group" stamp of quality, has introduced the pleasures of steak dining to the yuppie crowds of Makati and Ortigas through its original outlet in Dish at Rockwell and its newer branch at the Podium.

"Eating steaks is not just for the old and the rich," asserts Paul Macasaet, Cristina's brother-in-law, who helps manage Steak Factory. "We've endeavored to make our dishes more affordable without sacrificing the quality."

Steak Factory serves imported steaks that carry the seal of the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) and Angus Beef.

Bestsellers in the Steak Factory are the Steak Roulade at P250; the Steak Bernaise at P245, and the Fillet of Beef Steak at P245. Added on the menu are Gourmet Steaks, such as the Steak Rolled with feta cheese, sun-dried tomatoes and basil served with either pesto potato or roasted garlic potato; and the Steak Rolled with pan-roasted oyster mushroom, bacon and cheddar cheese, both at P480.

Steak Factory's current lunch special is called Steak Toppings. Served on top of rice in a bowl are the Steak Teriyaki and Steak Bulgogi, both at P180, the Chicken Teriyaki, Honey Chicken and Gourmet Tapa all at P150 each.

Steak Factory is at Dish in Rockwell (tel. 728-9845) and at the Podium in Mandaluyong City (633-8231/8694). Open 11 a.m.-10 p.m. from Sunday to Thursday, and 11 a.m.-11 p.m. from Friday to Saturday.

A Steak Factory branch will soon rise in Alabang.

Secret spices on the menu

DINING OUT

SUPER Bowl of China and Big Buddha have added Braised Pork, pork belly marinated with secret spices and sauteed with fresh spinach, to their menus. Also in the restaurants' menus are the Lapu-lapu Fillet with Taosi Sauce, Crispy Noodles with Assorted Seafood, Crispy Lemon Chicken and other new items like Steamed Fish Fillet with Garlic, Chicken in Haw Flakes Sauce and Sauteed Fresh Szechuan Scallops. Super Bowl also delivers. Call 737-8888 for delivery for a minimum purchase of P250. A 10-percent service charge will be added to the bill.

PAPARAZZI at Edsa Shangri-La Hotel presents the Essence of Truffles June 5-12 . Italian resident chef Guiliano Ungaro is preparing specialties flavored with black Italian summer truffles such as goose liver cannelloni, thyme-seasoned cod, seared chicken breast, potato and monk fish soufflé, scallop terrine, mascarpone and truffle semifreddo. Paparazzi is at the mezzanine of Edsa Shangri-La, Manila. Call 6347373 or 633-8888 local 2738/2739.

INTER-CONTINENTAL Manila's new pastry chef Cameron Mackay has prepared a new dessert menu for the hotel's fine dining restaurant, the Prince Albert Rotisserie. This month guests can enjoy Mackay's desserts at a 50-percent discount. The sweets include eight flavors of soufflé with a choice of five sauces; warm crepes with Cream Sabayon served with Vanilla Bean Ice Cream, Marinated Balsamic Strawberries with Cracked Blackpepper and Honey served with Honey and Fresh Rosemary Ice Cream, Warm Chocolate Pudding on Burnt Orange Sauce served with White Coffee Ice Cream, and Apple Gallette, Caramel. On sale at the Jeepney Deli Shop daily 7 a.m.-10 p.m.

New treat: Almond croissants

THE FRENCH Baker has come up with another winning pastry in almond croissants.

Not only are these treats light and flaky, but the presence of real almonds makes them healthy fare as well.

Botanically related to such stone fruits as peaches, plums and cherries, almonds are really fruits.

They are known to have the highest protein content of any nut, and are rich in minerals, magnesium, potassium, phosphorous and especially calcium. They are known to be an excellent source of Vitamin E and riboflavin.

Almonds are also high in mono-unsaturated fat, which helps to lower cholesterol (especially LDL, the bad cholesterol), and oleic acid, which is believed to be the ingredient in olive oil that protects against heart disease.

Almond croissants are available at The French Baker's 27 stores in Metro Manila, Pampanga and Metro Cebu.

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- Minced Duck with Lettuce
- Steamed Crab
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- Butchi
- Mango Sago

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- Grilled Smoked Gindara with HoneySauce
- Minced Duck with Lettuce
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- Abalone Mushroom with Bamboo Fungus
- Garlic Fried Rice
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- Butchi

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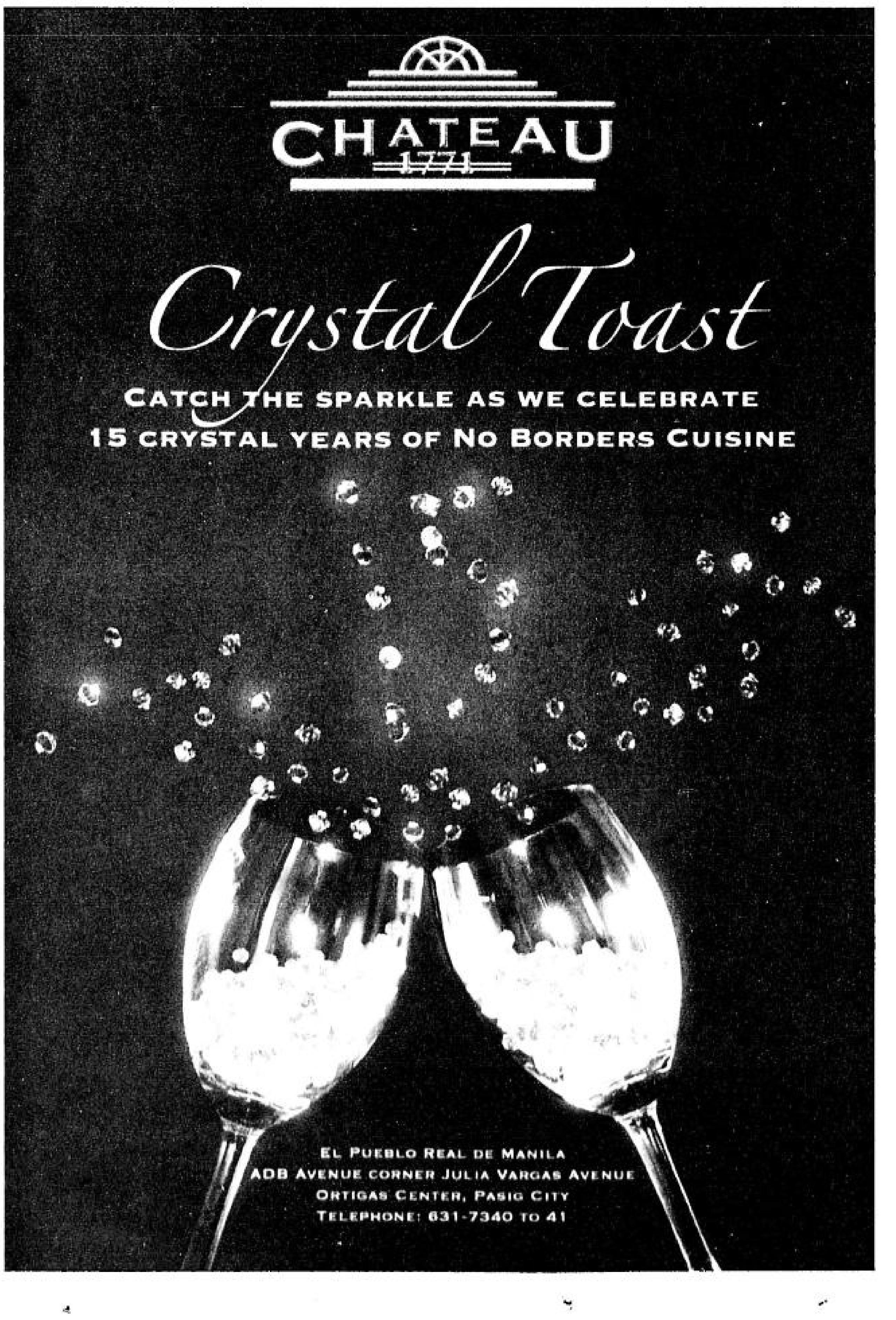

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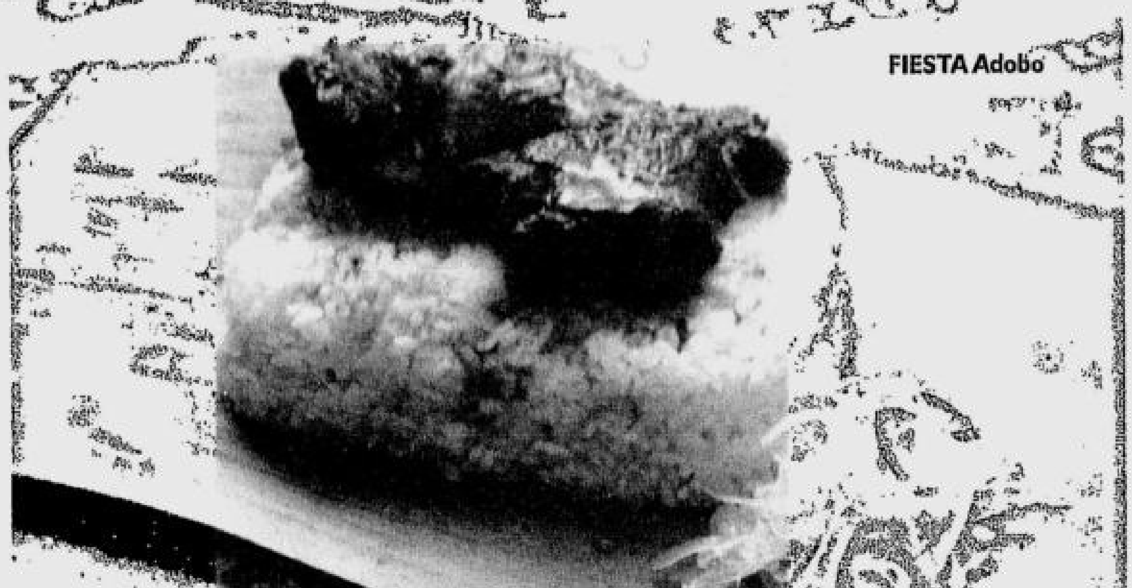


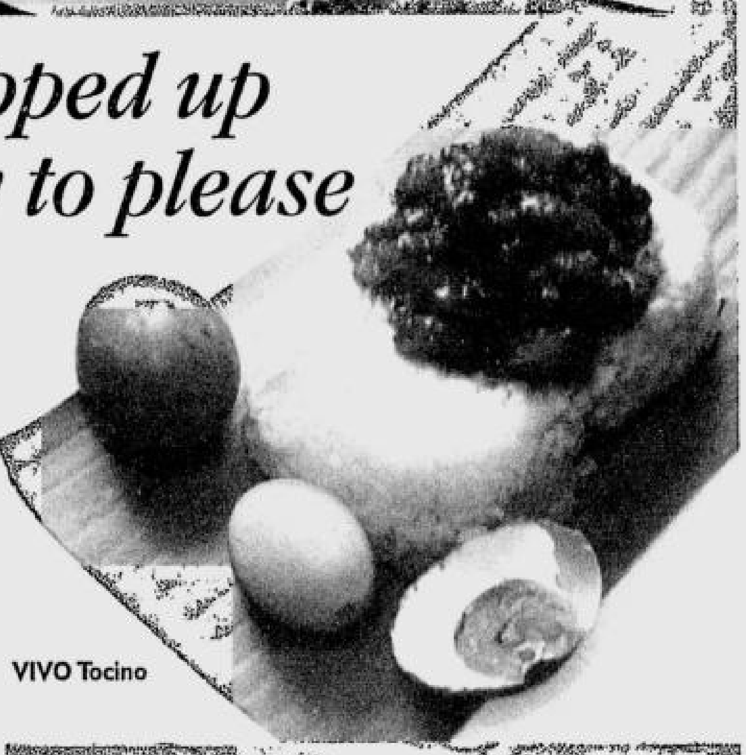
FIESTA Adobo

All wrapped up and ready to please

From page D1

etc.). "It's all part of the branding, so people will remember," says Juan.

The biodegradable packaging has also earned commendations from customers. "Being environment-friendly is a lucky plus. We realized it was a big factor when we catered 18,500 meals in three days during the National Youth Day, and 22,000 in the Marian Congress in a span of three days. They said not using styro is the reason we were chosen," says Juan.



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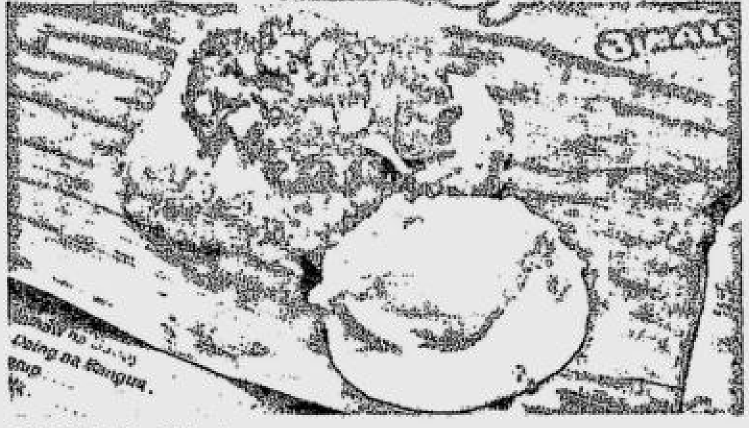

CORNED Beef Meal

Guerilla marketing

Juan shares Binalot started with "guerilla marketing." Together with his brother Raffy and friend Aileen Anastacio, Binalot began in a Makati residential condominium in 1996.

"We didn't start full blast right away. Aileen was our first cook. She studied in a culinary institute in California and she came up with the recipes," says Juan.

From the condominium ("We moved out because the tenants in the condominium were complaining that the whole floor smelled like *adobo*"), Binalot's first official delivery outlet opened on Jupiter, Makati. Soon, another kiosk was set up in Greenbelt.

Although sales were generally good, they realized that managing delivery outlets could be an unpredictable business.

"It was a steep learning curve for us. If you have an outlet that's pure delivery, you can't depend on it because of the erratic sales. That's when we got into the food courts. We realized we had less headaches with the dine-in and take-out compared to the delivery outlets. Sales were steady," says Juan.

Eventually, Binalot phased out their delivery motorbikes. "But we have foot soldiers if the delivery is in the area. Maybe we'll go back to delivery as support. But what I want is to have a full dine-in restaurant. That's my dream. I want to build stand-alone outlets outside the mall," says Juan

Among Binalot's immediate plans is to offer a Pinoy *merienda* line—the *puto at dinuguan, turon, bananacue* and *buko* juice. "It's already in the works," Juan promises. Franchising for Binalot will also be formally launched on July.

Right now, Juan is proud that they've found their niche in the food business. "We're five branches strong right now. We had competitions. A lot of them have come and gone," he states.

So what brings back customers to Binalot? "Our customers tell us it brings back memories of the farm, of the province, of how they ate in the province. Like when you open it, you have the smell of banana leaves. I think it's the experience. And that's our basic concern. To bring back this feeling to the urban areas," says Juan.

Binalot is located at the food courts of Robinsons Galleria, Shangri-La Plaza, SM Megamall, SM Makati and at the Ayala station of MRT.

Perk up the kids' brown-bag meals

By Dorothy MJ Ferreria
Contributor

A LUNCH box meal that is easy to put together and at the same time kid-friendly can be a problem. First, there is the issue of food spoilage; some viands spoil easily. Second is the palatability of the dish by meal time. The food must look and taste good even when cold. Here we offer recipes that can perk up your kid's lunchbox—recipes that can be prepared ahead of time and yet pleasing to the eyes and the taste buds of our little ones.

	Breakfast	Lunch	Dinner
MONDAY	Cereal with milk Pandesal Butter and fruit jam Vienna sausage Hot coffee or hot chocolate Papaya with *calamansi*	*Sinigang na bangus* with veggies Fried pork chop Rice Carrot banana cupcake	Instant cream of mushroom soup Turbo roast chicken Rice Gelatin
TUESDAY	Hotcake with butter and maple syrup Ham Hot coffee, hot chocolate or fruit juice	Pork *torta* *Adobong kangkong* Rice Papaya with *calamansi*	Tossed green salad Fried *maya maya* with sweet and sour sauce Rice or Fried *bihon* Canned lychee with ice
WEDNESDAY	Garlic rice Fried *daing na bangus* Hot coffee or hot chocolate Avocado with milk	Pork steak with onion rings Sauteed string beans with carrots Rice *Leche flan*	Chicken *tinola* Rice Sliced melon
THURSDAY	*Champorado* Toasted *dilis* or fried *danggit* Papaya with *calamansi*	Pancit canton Turbo boneless *bangus* with onion and tomato stuffing Rice	Tossed green salad *Nilagang baka* with potatoes and cabbage Rice Bottled sweet *garbanzos*
FRIDAY	French toast with butter and maple syrup Honeycured bacon Hot coffee, hot chocolate or fruit juice	Chicken *adobo* with quail eggs Rice Store-bought egg pie	Spaghetti with meatballs Garlic bread Ice cream with coffee jelly
SATURDAY	Garlic rice Sauteed corned beef Fried egg, sunny-side up Hot coffee, hot chocolate or fruit juice	Fresh vegetable *lumpia* Fried chicken Rice *Crema de fruta*	*Sopa de ajo* Beef *mechado* Rice *Buko* sherbet
SUNDAY	*Kesong puti* Canned spicy sardines *Pandesal* Butter and cheddar cheese Hot coffee or hot chocolate Pineapple	*Kare-kare* Steamed shrimps or prawns Rice Assorted *kakanin*	Coleslaw Beef salpicado Chicken pastel Rice Brazo de mercedes

Carrot Banana Cupcake

2 c sifted all-purpose flour
2 tsp sifted baking soda
¼ tsp salt
2 tsp cinnamon powder
1 c white sugar
1 c well-packed dark brown sugar
1 c corn oil
4 whole eggs, graded extra large
1 ½ c grated carrots
1 c well-drained canned crushed pineapple
½ c well mashed ripe bananas
½ c coarsely chopped walnuts
½ c raisins, rinsed

Preheat the oven to 350 °F. Line 24 cupcake molders with baking cups. Set aside.

In a large mixing bowl, pour the ingredients for the cupcake in the order given above. Mix with a wooden spoon or rubber scraper until blended. Pour the mixture into the prepared molders. Bake for 20-25 minutes or until a toothpick inserted in the center comes out clean.

Make-Ahead Chicken Adobo with Garlic Rice

Chicken Adobo:
1/3 cup native vinegar (*sukang paombong*)
3 tbsp soy sauce
1 tbsp oyster sauce
¼ c chopped garlic
1 pc bay leaf (laurel)
¼ c white sugar
black pepper to taste
12 pcs chicken thighs
½-1 c water

Garlic rice:
½ c margarine
¼ c coarsely chopped garlic
1 pc chicken broth cube
6 c cooked rice
black pepper to taste
¼ c *adobo* sauce (from cooked chicken *adobo*)

Garnishing:
fried garlic
boiled and peeled quail eggs
chopped spring onions

In a large saucepan, combine the ingredients for the *adobo*. Let stand for 15-30 minutes. Pour in ½ c of water. Place over medium heat and allow to boil without stirring. Lower the flame and allow to simmer until the chicken is done. Add more water if necessary.

To prepare the rice, heat the margarine in a large wok. Add the garlic and sauté until the garlic becomes fragrant. Crumble the chicken cube and add to the mixture. Pour in the rice and continue to sauté until blended. Season with black pepper to taste. Pour in the *adobo* sauce and mix well.

Spoon an adequate amount of rice in a container. Top with a piece of chicken *adobo*. Garnish with fried garlic, halved quail eggs and spring onions or coriander.

Cheese Spread with Roasted Peppers

Homemade Cheese Pimiento Spread:
2 pcs red bell pepper
1 bar cream cheese at room temperature
¼ c all-purpose cream, chilled
1 c grated cheddar cheese
1 tsp fine salt
¼ tsp finely ground black pepper

Broil bell peppers over an open flame until charred. Allow to rest for 5 minutes. Peel off the black skin and wash well. Discard the stem and the seeds. Chop the flesh and set aside.

In a medium-sized mixing bowl, using an electric mixer beat together the cream cheese and the whipping cream until light and fluffy. Add the rest of the ingredients and continue to beat until blended. Adjust seasonings if necessary.

Dorothy MJ Ferreria offers cooking classes at Dorothy's Cooking School at 48 Third St., New Manila, Quezon City. Call 721-7735.

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